

THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XVI.—NEW SERIES, No. 442.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 1854.

[PRICE 6d.]

TEMPERANCE LINE OF
PACKETS from LONDON to AUSTRALIA
calling at PLYMOUTH. To sail 15th May.
For PORT PHILLIP and SYDNEY,
the magnificent new clipper ship AUSTRALIA,
A 1,130 tons burthen (by the builder of the celebrated ships
California and *Janet*, of this line). This vessel equals in con-
venience and elegance any of this line yet despatched, and will
be fitted with every regard to the comfort of passengers. The
chief cabin is 70 feet in length, and equals in style and comfort
those of first-class steam ships. The 'twain decks are more than
7 feet in height. A minister and an experienced surgeon will ac-
company the vessel. Baths and wash-houses will be erected on deck
and a library will be supplied for the gratuitous use of the pas-
sengers. Terms £22 5s., including head-money in Australia. The
"Handbook for Australian Emigrants" will be forwarded on
application, and any information as to freight or passage will be
supplied by Messrs. Griffiths, Newcombe, and Co., 27, Rood-lane,
Fenchurch-street, London.

TO IRONMONGERS.—WANTED, a
steady, active Young Man, as JUNIOR ASSISTANT.
—Apply, post-paid, to Mr. SAWYER, Ironmonger, Peterboro'.

TO BREAD AND BISCUIT BAKERS.—
WANTED, a man who thoroughly understands his
business. Unexceptional references required.—Apply to ROBIN-
SON and Co., Chertsey, Surrey.

TO PARENTS and GUARDIANS.—
JOHN HURMAN, Chemist, &c., Bridgwater, Somerset, is in
Want of a Respectable Youth as an APPRENTICE.—For further
particulars apply as above.

TO DRAPERS' ASSISTANTS.—
WANTED, immediately, an active, persevering Young
Man, as ASSISTANT. One who has been accustomed to a middle
class trade. A member of a Christian church preferred.—Apply,
stating age, salary, and reference, to W. BAYLY, 19, Bridge-
street, Southampton.

A STUDENT of a BRITISH UNIVER-
SITY wishes to be engaged during the summer (and if
desired the autumnal) months, either in preaching to an Independent
Church, or as Tutor in a private family. Unexceptional
references.—Apply to A. B. C., care of S. W. Hill, Esq., 23,
Buccleuch-street, Glasgow.

AS HOUSEKEEPER or COMPANION
to an INVALID LADY or GENTLEMAN.—A person
who has been so occupied upwards of twelve years, aged thirty,
is desirous of a situation. She is a member of a Congregational
Church, and can have high references.—Address, A. M. D., Mr.
White, Ponders-end, Middlesex.

MEDICAL.—A SURGEON, residing at
Islington, having an open shop, has a VACANCY for an
APPRENTICE as Chemist and Druggist, or Surgeon. An in-
telligent youth will be received for a small premium.—Address,
MEDICUS, 62, Paternoster-row.

TO MILLERS, CORN AND COAL
MERCHANTS AND OTHERS.—WANTED, by a middle-aged
man, a situation as WAREHOUSE CLERK, or any similar situa-
tion in which confidence is required. Unexceptional references
can be given.—Address, R. S., Coventry's Library, Hackney.

A CHRISTIAN TRADESMAN, to extend
his business, is desirous of borrowing £200 to be repaid
by instalments. A liberal interest and undeniable personal security
will be given.—Address, C. D., Post-office, Carshalton, Surrey.

A YOUNG LADY, in her twentieth
year, accustomed to tuition, wishes for an en-
gagement as RESIDENT GOVERNESS in a family. In ad-
dition to the general routine of an English education, she can
teach German, French, and Music, acquired on the Continent.—
Address, T. M., Mudge's Select Library, 510, New Oxford-street.

ON THURSDAY, the 20th of APRIL,
JAMES SCOTT & Co. will open the Premises, 77 and 78
ST. PAUL'S CHURCHYARD, and they respectfully solicit the
attention of Ladies to an Entire New Stock of Silks, Mantles,
Shawls, Drapery, Ribbons, Hosiery, &c. They desire also to state,
that having in view the establishment of a permanent connexion,
their method of business will be such as they trust shall secure
for them the confidence of the public of London, who has already
done in Scotland.—77 and 78, ST. PAUL'S CHURCHYARD.

TO MINISTERS, PROFESSIONAL
MEN, AND OTHERS.—THE OXFORD MIXED DOESKIN
TROUSERS, price 18s. Stock for choice, or to measure. S.
BATTAM, Coat and Trousers Maker, 160, TOTTENHAM-COURT-
ROAD; four doors south of Shoobred and Co.'s. Patterns of
the Doeskin, and Directions for Measuring, sent free, by post.

TO PARENTS.—Economy in BOYS'
CLOTHES.—A FIRST CLASS SUIT, of extra Superfine
Cloth, at the rate of 11d. PER INCH, according to height; or TWO
GUINEAS the Suit for a boy EIGHT YEARS OLD.—2s. for each
additional Year. W. B. trusts the established character of his
Business for Fifty Years will prove a satisfactory guarantee as to
description of Articles. Fancy Braided Dresses in the first Style.
W. BERDOE, TAILOR, 96, NEW BOND STREET, and 69,
CORNHILL (only).

HALE'S SCORBUTIC DROPS.—This
is a Wonderful Purifier of the Blood, and a sure cure for
all SCORBUTIC ERUPTIONS, making all impurities vanish from
the system as snow before the sun. Price 2s. 9d. and 11s. a
bottle. Agents:—Barclay and Sons, 95, Farringdon-street; Prout,
229, Strand; and Sanger, 150, Oxford-street; also by all respect-
able Chemists.

BAPTIST HOME MISSIONARY
SOCIETY.—The ANNUAL MEETING will be held at
FINSBURY CHAPEL, MONDAY EVENING, 24th APRIL. The
Chair to be taken at half-past Six. W. MIDDLEMORE, Esq., of
Birmingham, will preside. Tea will be provided at the Mission
House, 33, Moorgate-street, at half-past five, for Ministers and
other friends of the Society, including ladies.

BAPTIST UNION.—The FORTY-SE-
COND ANNUAL SESSION of the BAPTIST UNION of
GREAT BRITAIN and IRELAND will be held at the MISSION-
HOUSE, 33, Moorgate-street, London, on FRIDAY NEXT,
APRIL 21, 1854. The Chair to be taken at Ten o'clock, when
an Introductory Address will be delivered by the Rev. J.
HOBY, D.D.

EDWARD STEANE, } Secretaries.
J. H. HINTON, }
N.B.—Refreshments provided.

BAPTIST IRISH SOCIETY.—The
Annual Sermon on behalf of the Baptist Irish Society will
be preached on FRIDAY Evening, April 21st, at DEVONSHIRE-
SQUARE CHAPEL, Bishopsgate-street, by the Rev. HUGH
STOWELL BROWN, of Liverpool. Service to commence at
Seven o'clock.

The Annual Meeting of the Baptist Irish Society will be held in
FINSBURY CHAPEL, on TUESDAY Evening, April 25th. The
Chair is to be taken at half-past Six, by RICHARD FOSTER,
Esq., of Cambridge.

YOUNG MEN'S MISSIONARY ASSO-
CIATION IN AID of the BAPTIST MISSIONARY
SOCIETY. The ANNUAL SERMON to YOUNG MEN will be
preached in the POULTRY CHAPEL, on THURSDAY Evening,
APRIL 20th, 1854, by the Rev. ISAAC NEW, of Birmingham.
Service will commence at Seven o'clock. A Collection will be
made on behalf of the Baptist Missionary Society.

D. R. DOSSETOR, } Hon. Secretaries.
J. H. CUZNER, }
J. W. BIGGS, }

VOLUNTARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

THE SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING of
the above Society will be held on Monday, May 1st, at the
London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street. Chair to be taken at 7 o'clock,
P.M., by THOMAS BARNES, Esq., M.P.
Rev. H. RICHARD, } Hon. Secs.
JOSEPH BARRETT, Esq., }

THE SEVENTEENTH ANNIVERSARY
of the COUNTRY TOWNS MISSION, lately known as
the TOWN MISSIONARY and SCRIPTURE READERS'
SOCIETY, will be held at the Society's Office, 27, RED LION
SQUARE, London, on TUESDAY Evening, 25th inst., at half-past
Six o'clock. Sir JOHN D. PAUL, Bart., in the Chair.

The Society's Monthly Periodical, Price One Penny,
THE COUNTRY TOWNS MISSION RECORD,
May be had of all Booksellers, or of the Publishers, the "Book
Society for Promoting Religious Knowledge among the Poor," 19,
Paternoster-row.

ANNUAL SERVICES of the BAPTIST
MISSIONARY SOCIETY for 1854.

In consequence of WEDNESDAY, April 26, having been appointed
as a DAY of HUMILIATION and PRAYER, an alteration has
been made in the Annual Services. The arrangement will be
as follows:—

THURSDAY, APRIL 20.

SPECIAL PRAYER MEETING.

A Meeting for Special Prayer, in connexion with the Missions,
will be held in the LIBRARY of the MISSION HOUSE, in the
Morning, at Eleven o'clock. The Rev. JONATHAN WATSON,
of Edinburgh, will preside.

SERMON TO YOUNG MEN.

In the Evening of the above day, the Annual Sermon to Young
Men will be preached at POULTRY CHAPEL, by the Rev.
ISAAC NEW, of Birmingham. Service to commence at Eight
o'clock.

LORD'S DAY, APRIL 23.

SERMONS will be preached on behalf of the Society in the
Baptist Chapels of the Metropolis.

[For particulars see the "Herald" for April.]

TUESDAY, APRIL 25.

ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting of Members of the Society will be
held in the LIBRARY at the MISSION HOUSE, Moorgate-street.
Chair to be taken at Ten o'clock. This meeting is for members
only. All subscribers of 10s. 6d. or upwards, donors of £10 or
upwards, pastors of Churches which make an annual contribution,
or ministers who collect annually for the Society, and one of the
executors, on the payment of a legacy of £20 or upwards, are
entitled to attend.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26.

DESIGNATION of MISSIONARIES.

Instead of the Second Sermon, the Committee have arranged for
a SPECIAL SERVICE at BLOOMSBURY CHAPEL, to commend
to the Divine blessing the following Brethren about to enter on
Missionary Service in India, as the first-fruits of the proposed en-
largement of the Society's Mission in that important field:—The
Rev. John Gregson, late of Beverley; Mr. J. H. Anderson, and
Mr. Thomas Martin.

The following ministers have kindly consented to take part in
this service:—The Revs. William Brock, Hugh Stowell Brown,
John Howard Hinton, M.A., Thomas Winter.
Service to commence at half-past Six o'clock.

THURSDAY, APRIL 27.

PUBLIC MEETING AT EXETER HALL.

The Annual Public Meeting of the Society will be held as usual
in EXETER HALL, at which S. M. PETO, Esq., M.P., one of the
Treasurers of the Society, has kindly consented to preside. Chair
to be taken at Eleven o'clock.

Tickets for the Meeting may be obtained at the Mission House,
or at the Vestries of the various Chapels.

CONGREGATIONAL BOARD.—At the
ANNUAL MEETING, held on Tuesday, April 11, the
following Resolutions on UNIVERSITY REFORM were unani-
mously adopted:—

1. That this Board has observed with sincere satisfaction
that the avowed basis of the legislative measures now before Par-
liament, for the Reform of the University of Oxford is, that the
English Universities are public property.

2. That not only does justice demand that the Universities of
England be made available for all classes, without religious dis-
tinction, but consistency requires that their constitution, as altered
and improved by the Legislature, be harmonised with the
principle on which rests the right of the Legislature to effect such
alteration and improvement.

3. That on these grounds, Petitions be presented to both
Houses of Parliament by this Board, praying that provision be
made for the admission to the English Universities of all classes
of Her Majesty's subjects without distinction of creed.

(Signed) JOHN H. GOODWIN, Chairman.
ROBT. ASHTON, Secretary.

Congregational Library, April 12, 1854.

SURBITON CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH (Kingston Railway Station).—On THURSDAY,
APRIL 27, 1854, at Three o'clock in the afternoon, the FOUR-
THOUSAND STONE of the above building will be laid by W.
LEAVERS, Esq., of Surbiton. The Rev. T. BINNEY will deliver
an address, and the Rev. L. H. BYRNES, B.A., of Kingston, will
offer a dedicatory prayer. Trains from Waterloo, 1, 2, 2.35.
From Kingston, 5.52, 7.25.

NEW COLLEGE CHAPEL, ST.
JOHN'S WOOD.—ANNIVERSARY SERVICES.—On
SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 1854, the Rev. A. J. MORRIS, of Hollow-
way, will preach in the Morning, and the Rev. JOHN WATSON,
of Hackney College, in the Evening. Service commences in the
Morning at Eleven, and in the Evening at half-past Six.
Collections will be made after each of these Services, in aid of the
fund for the liquidation of the debt still remaining on this
Chapel.

SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER
COLOURS.—The FIFTEENTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION
will open at their Gallery, 5, Pall Mall East, on Monday next, the
24th of April. Admittance 1s. Catalogues 6d.
JOSEPH J. JENKINS, Secretary.

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION OF
FINE ARTS, Portland Gallery, 316, Regent-street, oppo-
site the Royal Polytechnic Institution.—The SEVENTH ANNUAL
EXHIBITION of the Society is now open from Nine till Dusk.
Admission 1s. Catalogue 6d.
BELL SMITH, Secretary.

SOCIETY for the LIBERATION of
RELIGION from STATE PATRONAGE and CONTROL.—
THE ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING will be held on WEDNES-
DAY Evening, MAY 3rd, at Finsbury Chapel.—Further particulars
will be announced.
J. CARVELL WILLIAMS, Sec.

41, Ludgate-hill.

BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE PRO-
PAGATION of the GOSPEL AMONG THE JEWS,
No. 1, Crescent-place, Blackfriars.—The ANNUAL MEET-
ING will be held on THURSDAY Evening, APRIL 27, in
FREMASON'S HALL. The chair to be taken at Six o'clock
precisely.

Tickets may be had of Messrs. Partridge and Oakley, Pater-
noster-row and Edgware-road; J. Nisbet and Co., Berners-street;
Shaw, Southampton-row; Miller and Field, Lambeth; Ford and
Starling, Islington; and Cotes, Chesham.

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING of
the Subscribers and Friends of the KING EDWARD
RAGGED and INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS and EASTERN RE-
FUGE, will be held at the SCHOOL HOUSE, Albert-street,
Buxton-street, Brick-lane, Spitalfields, on TUESDAY Evening,
APRIL 25th, 1854.

The Chair to be taken by the Right Honourable LORD
ROBERT GROSVENOR, M.P., at half-past Six o'clock.

H. R. WILLIAMS, Hon. Sec.

Subscriptions and Donations will be thankfully received by
Samuel Gurney, Jun., Esq., Treasurer, Lombard-street; Messrs.
Smith, Payne, and Smiths, Lombard-street; and by the Hon.
Secretary, 2, Pembury-grove, Hackney.

* * A BAZAAR in aid of the Funds of the GIRLS' REFUGE
will be held on MAY 31st and JUNE 1st, at the SCHOOLS, as
above. Contributions to which will be thankfully received.

NOTTING-DALE SCHOOLS, KEN-
SINGTON POTTERIES, NOTTING-HILL.—The DONA-
TIONS of the Earl of SHAFTESBURY, Colonel FOX, and other
kind friends present at the Meeting held as reported in the body
of this Paper, amounted to nearly Seventy Pounds, but the further
aid of friends to the education of the poor in this wretched
locality is needed to carry out the benevolent and religious move-
ment described in the Report.

Subscriptions will be thankfully received by the following
Bankers:—

Messrs. COCKS and BIDDULPH, Charing-cross.
" BOUVERIE and Co., Haymarket.

And by the following Trustees and Gentlemen of the Committee
for conducting the Schools:—

PETER BROAD, Esq., Oaklands, Shepherd's Bush.
JOHN CHURCHILL, Esq., Petersburg-place, Bayswater.
ROBERT COCKS, Esq., Ladbroke terrace, Notting-hill.
WM. CULLINGFORD, Esq., Chepstow-villas, Notting-hill.
W. M. NEWTON, Esq., West-hill, Wandsworth.
E. SWAINE, Esq., 185, Piccadilly.
ISAAC WILKINSON, Esq., 1, Kensington-park-villas.
GEORGE WILSON, Esq., 6, Clarendon-villas, Notting-hill.

SARL'S ARGENTINE SILVER PLATE

IS THE BEST SUBSTITUTE FOR SOLID SILVER.

MANUFACTORY, 18, POULTRY (near the Mansion House), LONDON.

THIS unrivalled production continues to give the same satisfaction as when first introduced by SARL and SONS, ten years ago. From its intrinsic value, and brilliant appearance, it far surpasses all other substitutes for solid Silver. A new and magnificent stock has just been completed for the present season, to which public inspection is respectfully invited. It comprises SPOONS and FORKS, CORNER DISHES and COVERS, DISH COVERS, EPERGNES and CANDELABRAS with Beautiful Figures and Classical Designs, TEA and COFFEE EQUIPAGES, CRUET FRAMES, CAKE BASKETS, CANDLESTICKS, SALVERS, TEA TRAYS, DECANTER STANDS, LIQUEUR FRAMES, TEA URNS and KETTLES, SOUP and SAUCE TUREENS, with every article requisite for the Dinner, Tea, or Breakfast Service. Pamphlets, containing drawings and prices of all the articles, gratis, and sent postage free to all parts of the kingdom. Any article may be had separately as a sample.

SOLE INVENTORS AND MANUFACTURERS,

SARL & SONS, 18, POULTRY (near the Mansion House, London.)

GOLD AND SILVER WATCHES.

SARL and SONS, WATCH MANUFACTURERS, 18, POULTRY (near the Mansion House), invite attention to their new and very extensive STOCK of GOLD and SILVER WATCHES. The patterns are of the latest style; and the movements of the most highly-finished description. Every make can be had. The following prices will convey an outline of the Stock, combining economy with quality:—

Watches of the Horizontal make, jewelled in four holes, maintaining power, 1st size.....	Gold Cases and Dials. £ s. d.	Silver Cases. £ s. d.
Ditto, 2nd size.....	10 0 0	2 18 0
Ditto, 3rd size.....	10 0 0	3 0 0
Patent lever movements, detached escapements, jewelled in four or six holes, 2nd size.....	9 0 0	3 18 0
Ditto with the flat, fashionable style, with the most highly-finished movements, jewelled in ten extra holes, 3rd size.....	14 14 0	5 18 0

A written warranty for accurate performance is given with every watch, and a twelvemonths' trial allowed. A very extensive and splendid assortment of fine gold neck-chains; charged according to the weight of sovereigns.

A pamphlet, containing a list of the prices of the various articles in gold and silver, may be had gratis.—Address,

SARL & SONS, 18, POULTRY (near the Mansion House, London.)

WESLEYAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of this SOCIETY will be held at EXETER HALL, Strand, on MONDAY, May 1st.

The Chair to be taken at Eleven o'clock precisely, by Sir EDWARD N. BUXTON, Bart.

Several Ministers and Gentlemen will afford their services on the occasion; and the Rev. ROBERT YOUNG may be expected to give some account of his recent visit to the Society's Missions in New Zealand, the Friendly Islands, Feejee, and Australia.

The times and places of the WEEK-DAY RELIGIOUS SERVICES in connexion with this Anniversary will be as follows:—

On WEDNESDAY EVENING, April 26th, at Seven o'clock, in HINDE-STREET CHAPEL, Manchester-square, the Rev. THOMAS LLEWELLYN, of Liverpool, will preach.

On WEDNESDAY EVENING, April 26th, at Seven o'clock, CITY-ROAD CHAPEL, the Rev. Dr. LEIFCHILD.

On THURSDAY MORNING, April 27th, at Eleven o'clock, in the LARGE ROOM of the CENTENARY HALL, Bishopsgate-street Within, the Rev. WILLIAM M. BUNTING.

And on FRIDAY MORNING, April 28th, at Eleven o'clock, GREAT QUEEN-STREET CHAPEL, Lincoln's-inn-fields, the Rev. JOHN LOMAS, President of the Conference.

The following are the arrangements made for SUNDAY, April 30th:—

CITY-ROAD CHAPEL.

At Half-past Ten, the Rev. JOHN LOMAS, President of the Conference; at Half-past Six, the Rev. THOMAS VASEY, of Hull.

GREAT QUEEN-STREET CHAPEL.

At a Quarter before Eleven, the Rev. THOMAS VASEY; at Three, the Rev. GEORGE B. MACDONALD; at Half-past Six, the Rev. SAMUEL COLEY, of Stockport.

SPITALFIELDS CHAPEL.

At Half-past Ten, the Rev. ROBINSON SCOTT, of Dublin; at Half-past Six, the Rev. EDWARD NYE, of Birkenhead.

SOUTHWARK CHAPEL, LONG LANE, BOROUGH.

At Half-past Ten, the Rev. THOMAS LLEWELLYN; at Six, the Rev. ROBERT NEWTON, D.D.

LAMBETH CHAPEL.

At Half-past Ten, the Rev. SAMUEL W. CHRISTOPHERS, of Exeter; at Six, the Rev. WILLIAM M. BUNTING.

HINDE-STREET CHAPEL, MANCHESTER-SQUARE.

At Eleven, the Rev. EDWARD NYE; at Half-past Six, the Rev. SAMUEL W. CHRISTOPHERS.

SLOANE-TERRACE CHAPEL, CHELSEA.

At Half-past Ten, the Rev. DANIEL SANDERSON, from India; at Half-past Six, the Rev. JOHN LOMAS, President of the Conference.

LIVERPOOL-ROAD CHAPEL, ISLINGTON.

At Half-past Ten, the Rev. SAMUEL COLEY; at Half-past Six, the Rev. THOMAS LLEWELLYN.

A Collection, in aid of the Society's Funds, will be made after each Sermon, and in the course of the Public Meeting.

In order to avoid interference with other arrangements respecting Exeter Hall, which the Committee cannot control, the Hall doors will be opened at Half-past Nine o'clock, instead of Ten o'clock.

The admission to the Annual Meeting will be by Ticket. Applications for Tickets to be made to the Ticket Committee, at the Wesleyan Centenary Hall and Mission House, Bishopsgate-street Within, on Monday, April 24th, and following days, from Eleven to Four o'clock. The Tickets will be distributed according to the usual regulations.

On SATURDAY, April 29th, a Breakfast Meeting will be held at the LONDON TAVERN, at Nine o'clock in the Morning, in behalf of the Society's Mission to CHINA. The RIGHT HON. THE LORD MAYOR will preside.

While making these announcements, the Committee cherish a grateful remembrance of the devotional and hallowed character of the services connected with previous Anniversaries of this Society. They earnestly commend to their friends, both in town and country, to unite with them in prayer to God, during the period which now intervenes, and especially at the Prayer Meetings and other devotional services of the week previous to April 25th, that a copious measure of Divine influence may rest on Ministers and Congregations, and that, by a gracious manifestation of His presence, God may be pleased again to place the seal of His approbation on the work which is undertaken in His name and for His glory.

The friends of the Society are respectfully reminded, that, at no former period were the claims of the world more urgent on the sympathies and diligence of the Church of Christ than at the present time.

The early Missions of the Society, occupying the comparatively limited fields of the West Indies and North America, while advancing with more or less rapidity towards the maturity of self-support, are still dependent, in a considerable measure, on the Parent Society, and claim a share of help in evidence of continued love. But the more recent Missions in the wider regions of Africa, of India, and Polynesia, are opening unlimited fields of operation, which are not to be occupied and cultivated without a large increase of liberality and effort on the part of the professed friends of our fallen world.

Meantime, Europe is threatened with war, which will be accompanied with "distress of nations and perplexity; but which may have for its result, at no remote period, a more easy access to vast populations of Europe and Asia, which have hitherto been without the blessings of scriptural Christianity. For such an event it becomes the Society, and every kindred institution, to be in the attitude of prayer and expectation; and of readiness to improve it to the utmost, by providing and arranging the needful resources, and by cherishing the spirit which animated the disciples when "they were scattered abroad" and "went everywhere, preaching the word."

JOHN BEECHAM,
ELIJAH HOOLE,
GEORGE OSBORN,
WILLIAM ARTHUR,

General
Secretaries.

OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE.—At the

ANNUAL MEETING of the GENERAL BODY of PROTESTANT DISSIDENT MINISTERS, in and around the Cities of London and Westminster, held at the CONGREGATIONAL LIBRARY, APRIL 11, 1854.

The Rev. HENRY FORSTER BURDER, D.D., in the Chair.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

1. On the motion of the Rev. J. H. Hinton, M.A.; seconded by the Rev. Robert Philip; it was resolved,—

That in the opinion of this body, the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge should not be administered for the exclusive advantage of any particular portion of the community, but ought to be accessible to all Her Majesty's subjects, irrespectively of their religious opinions.

2. On the Motion of the Rev. J. W. Maass, D.D., LL.D., seconded by the Rev. G. Verrall, it was resolved,—

That as a measure relating to the University of Oxford is now before Parliament, petitions from this body be presented to both Houses, praying that provision may be made therein, and in any future measure relating to the University of Cambridge, for the abolition of all religious tests.

3. On the Motion of the Rev. Edward Steane, D.D., seconded by the Rev. Robert Ashton,—

The terms of the said petition were agreed to.

4. On the Motion of the Rev. Robert Redpath, M.A., seconded by the Rev. W. Lucy, it was resolved,—

That the petitions be signed by the Chairman and Secretary on behalf of the body; and be presented, that to the Commons by S. M. Peto, Esq., M.P., and that to the Lords by the Marquess of Lansdowne.

H. F. BURDER, Chairman.
JOHN KENNEDY, Secretary.

ORPHAN WORKING SCHOOL, HAVERSTOCK HILL.

PATRON: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

For children of both sexes, of all denominations, and from every part of the kingdom.

The Governors of this Corporation are respectfully informed, that a General Court will be held at the LONDON TAVERN, Bishopsgate-street, on FRIDAY, APRIL 28th, 1854, to receive the Half yearly Report from the Board of the General Committee on the state of the Charity; and the Auditors' Report; to Elect Officers for the year ensuing; and for the Election of Twenty-five Children into the School; viz., Eighteen Boys and Seven Girls. The Chair will be taken at Eleven o'clock, and the Ballot close at Three precisely, after which no Votes can possibly be received.

Office, 38, Ludgate-hill, JOSEPH SOUL, Secretary.
April 18th, 1854.

Annual Subscription of a Governor 21s.; Life £10 10s.; of a Subscriber 10s. 6d.; Life £5 5s. Contributions received and proxies issued daily between 10 and 4. Double proxies may be had for 4s. New Subscribers Voted at the present Election.

JOHN B. GOUGH.—The Committee of

the LONDON TEMPERANCE LEAGUE have pleasure to announce, that this distinguished ADVOCATE will again visit the Metropolis, and deliver ORATIONS as follows:—

Monday, April 24th, Exeter Hall. Free to the Working Classes.

Tuesday, 25th, Exeter Hall.

Wednesday, 26th, Exeter Hall. In compliance with the National Fast, the Lecture for this day will be special, and tickets must be obtained on or before the 25th.

Friday, 28th, Willis's Rooms, King-street, St. James's. Morning Meeting. An Address to Ladies only. Chair taken at Two o'clock.

Monday, May 1st, Abney Chapel, Stoke Newington.

Tuesday, 2nd, Manor Rooms, Hackney.

Wednesday, 3rd, Sadler's Wells Theatre.

Thursday, 4th, Hall, Grove-lane, Camberwell.

Monday, 8th, Tottenham.

Tuesday, 9th, Exeter Hall.

Wednesday, 10th, Exeter Hall.

Thursday, 11th, Exeter Hall.

Doors open each Evening at Seven, to commence at Eight o'clock.

Tickets to the Ladies' Meeting, 2s. and 1s.; to the other Meetings, 2s., 1s., and 6d. each, except the Meeting for the Working Classes, which is free to the body of the Hall; Platform, 1s.; may be obtained at the Offices, 387, Strand, and early application is requested.

NEW CRYSTAL WAREHOUSES,

61 and 62, St. Paul's Churchyard, and 58 and 59, Paternoster-row.—The LONDON MANTLE and SHAWL COMPANY beg to announce to their numerous patrons and friends the completion of their Premises, which will be OPENED on MONDAY next, April 17th, on a scale of grandeur and magnificence hitherto unattempted in the commercial world.—The London Mantle and Shawl Company, manufacturers and importers of mantles, silks, shawls, dresses, and furs. Carriage entrance, 61 and 62, St. Paul's Churchyard; wholesale entrance, 58 and 59, Paternoster-row, London.

THE FIRST GRAND AND UNRI-

VALLED DISPLAY of WEDDING and other MANTLES will take place in the New Crystal Windows of the LONDON MANTLE and SHAWL COMPANY, on MONDAY, April 17th, and during the week; comprising, amongst the number, SIX of the most superb and costly designs chosen by her most Gracious Majesty.

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SON, 113, High Holborn, near King-street, have now on sale Goodyear's Patent India-rubber Combs. Use alone can prove their superiority over Tortoiseshell, surpassing it in delicacy and elegance, whilst the price is only that of Buffalo-horn, and are indestructible. Dressing or Back Combs forwarded by post, prepaid, 2s. 2d.

THE MAY MEETINGS, 1854.—

CHARLES GLENNY begs to return his sincere thanks to his numerous friends for their continued kind patronage of his BALBRIGGAN HOSIERY, manufactured by the peasantry of Ireland, and solicits a visit from those friends who avail themselves of this interesting season of the year to make their purchases in London.—Balbriggan House, 38, Lombard-street, City.

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tickets of Insurance against RAILWAY ACCIDENTS for the Journey on payment of 1d., 2d., 3d., by inquiring of the Booking Clerk at all the principal stations where they take a railway ticket. Railway Passengers Assurance office, 3, Old Broad-street. WILLIAM J. VIAN, Secretary.

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LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—Money received on Deposits at 5 per cent interest payable half-yearly in April and October. RICHARD HODSON, Secretary.
15 and 16, Adam-street, Adelphi, London.

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No. 3, Pall-mall East, and 7, St. Martin's-place, Trafalgar-square, London. Established A.D. 1834.

INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS may be opened Daily, with Capital of any amount. Interest payable in January and July.

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SOCIETY. Chief Office—19, MOORGATE-STREET, London.—The Directors of this Company have much pleasure in informing their Clients and the Public, that they have opened Branch Offices at 8, Newhall-street, BIRMINGHAM; Albion Chambers, BRISTOL; 84, Lord-street, LIVERPOOL; 65, King-street, MANCHESTER; 1, Dean-street, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE; 7, Alter Wandrahm, HAMBURG; and 95, Queen-street, PORTSAF.

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Annual Premium for the Assurance of £100 on the Whole of Life with Profits.

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Premium £ s. d. £ s. d. £ s. d. £ s. d. £ s. d.

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MATS of the best quality. The Jury of Class 28, Great Exhibition, awarded the Prize Medal to T. TRELOAR, Cocoa Nut Fibre Manufacturer, 42, LUDGATE-HILL, LONDON.

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FIVE GUINEAS.—MR. WM. H. HALSE,

the Medical Galvanist, of 25, BRUNSWICK-SQUARE, LONDON, informs his friends that his FIVE GUINEA APPARATUS are now ready.

Send two postage-stamps for his Pamphlet on Medical Galvanism.

THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XVI.—NEW SERIES, No. 442.]

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

THE UNMANAGEABLE QUESTION.

SOME of our readers, we believe, are quite puzzled, and even shocked, by the dogged opposition we have given to every successive plan of Government education, and would be strongly disposed to set us down as Goths, were we to express our hope that in this direction anything like general success may be rendered permanently impracticable by the religious condition of society. They parade before us the statistics of crime—they draw up in array against us numerous and lamentable proofs of popular ignorance and brutality—they charge us home with pointed questions such as, "Is not prevention better than cure?" and "Are not schools less costly and more efficient than prisons?" Sometimes our benevolence is appealed to—sometimes our judgment. One friend is amazed that we have not more political sagacity—another suspects that we are bound hand and foot by concealed sectarian prejudices—a third predicts, with unfaltering confidence, our conversion before long to a more reasonable view of the whole subject. What will be said, then, when we profess, as we do most seriously, that we rejoice at every new failure of the Legislature to solve this question, and that we hope the war, if it does no other good, will effectually discourage the meddling of law with the education of the people?

Why, surely, the course of events might teach reflecting folk, even if nothing else can, to view with distrust the position they occupy in this matter. The present state of things is, probably, unparalleled. The Ministry is known to have set their hearts upon the establishment of a comprehensive scheme of popular education. The House of Commons, by an overwhelming majority, would be happy to give their sanction to any plan in which the principle of national education is embodied, however objectionable in detail. The public press is perpetually urging the question as one of supreme importance. Middle-class society, strongly supported by the opinion and sympathy of the operatives, may be regarded as, in bulk, decidedly in favour of some legislation in the matter. And yet, whilst all the nation, or pretty nearly all, desire that something should be done, and declare that something *must* be done, every successive attempt to give effect to this desire ends in unexpected and disastrous defeat. Every bill submitted to Parliamentary examination and discussion is lauded to the skies on its introduction, and is withdrawn shortly after, to the manifest relief of all parties. If the principle is sound, and if nearly everybody is in favour of it, how does it happen that it cannot be embodied in an acceptable plan? Why is it that, on a question about the essence of which there appears to be such unanimity of opinion, there should also be such insuperable difficulty in reducing it to a practical form? No doubt, this is a mystery to those who think only on the surface.

We avow our conviction, that whilst any plan of national education must, in the nature of things, be captivated to enlightened sympathies, no plan, having reference to the actual condition and wants of the people, can hold together under frequent discussion. Why? Because it soon becomes ap-

parent, that the most ample supply of means by public rates can only displace the supply of means already provided by voluntary agency, and that, too, without increasing the demand which, in point of fact, is precisely the thing wanted. The real desideratum is not more schools, but a higher appreciation of scholastic education. Where a week's instruction for his child is not prized by a working man—or a *proletaire* at so high a rate as a pot of beer for himself, legislative interference can do nothing towards redeeming the lower class from the evils of ignorance. It may get the control of what is already being done, but it will very imperceptibly increase it in amount. Where there is now a schoolmaster aided by voluntary subscription, it may place two schoolmasters supported by rates—but it will not multiply the number of scholars. It may relieve struggling denominations of a burden—but it will not dissipate darkness from the popular mind. But wherever it brings relief it will likewise exercise authority, and impose restraints. All sects feel this when, in turn, they come to be dealt with. And hence, naturally enough, each plan, as it successively comes under discussion, provokes hostility by its meddling, but does not conciliate support by its adaptation to the crying need of the times. It does what it should not do, and it leaves undone what it should do. And so it must be, however honest the intentions of the schemers: for what this country wants—a more general taste for education—no agency of law can supply; and what the country does not want—official intermeddling with religious benevolence—no agency of law can be set in motion without insuring.

Certainly, if in any part of the British Empire a scheme of public education might *à priori* have been deemed feasible and easy, it was Scotland. The people of Scotland are, almost to a man, in favour of legislative provision for this purpose. They have no difference, to speak of, either as it regards religious creed or ecclesiastical discipline. They are a nation of Calvinists and Presbyterians. And, if any measure could have given them satisfaction, one would have supposed, from the praises bestowed upon it when first introduced, the Lord Advocate's recent measure would have done so. And yet, what do we find? Scarcely five weeks have elapsed since that bill "to make further provisions for the education of the people of Scotland, and to amend the laws relating thereto," was laid upon the table of the House of Commons, with unusual auguries of a splendid success. How changed the scene at this moment! The second reading of the bill has been postponed, with ominous symptoms of its being eventually dropped. The Commission of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, representing about a third of the population, have published their opinion, that "the Church of Scotland, throughout all her courts, ought to protest against the passing of the said bill, and use all constitutional means to prevent it becoming law." The Edinburgh Presbytery of the United Presbyterian Church, which may be deemed to represent the opinions of another third of the population, object so strongly to the 27th and 36th clauses of the measure, that Dr. Peddie says, with the full concurrence of the Presbytery, "The duty of the Church was, therefore, to come forward resolutely and state their objections to these clauses; to take every measure competent to them to prevent the bill from passing; and if, by reason of their opposition, the measure was withdrawn, they were not to be held as responsible for the consequences." In this judgment, we believe, the Independents and Baptists are at one with the United Presbyterian Church—so that the Free Church alone, to whose desires the bill seems to have been specially accommodated, can be said to view it with predominant approbation.

Under these circumstances, we think the chances are not great that the bill will be read a second time, even in the House of Commons—and they are infinitesimally small that it will struggle through a committee. If, however, it should survive this ordeal, what reason have we to suppose, that a measure which meets with such determined opposition from the Established Church of Scotland,

will overcome the hostility of the Lords; at a period of the session, too, when they will be able to plead the plausible excuse, that due time for deliberation has not been given them? Without claiming the gift of prophecy, we think we may safely predict that the Lord Advocate, like his predecessors in this line, is doomed to disappointment. Indeed, he seems to have a presentiment of the fate which awaits his measure. The few sentences in which he announced the necessity under which he lay to defer proceeding further with the bill till after Easter, were delivered in an ominous tone of misgiving, if not despondency. The congratulations which were offered him in the beginning of March will turn out, we suspect, to have been premature—and the early spring blossoms will be cut off by unanticipated frosts. If the war is protracted, education at the public cost may be set down as a pet project which has happily lost its chance. But the progress of education will not be therefore retarded. On the contrary, it will outstrip, we verily believe, its former growth, wonderful as that has been. Let us but succeed in keeping "hands off" for a few years, and such will be the altered state of opinion on the subject, that our statesmen will look back and wonder that ever they should have been foolish enough to attempt the settlement of "an unmanageable question."

THE COLONIAL CLERGY BILL.

(From the *Examiner*.)

"To speak the truth, I dread every assembly of Bishops. For I have never yet seen a good result from any one of them. Never have I been at a Synod which did more for the suppression, than it did for the increase, of evils. An indescribable thirst for contention and for rule prevails in them."—Gregory Nazianzen, Epist. 55.

After five hours' discussion in committee of this bill, which contains but two short clauses, the House of Commons on Monday evening only got through four lines of the first clause, making therein a very material alteration; and then, perplexed, confused, and embarrassed by a complete incapacity to understand what the measure really aimed at, and what it would accomplish, broke off the discussion, if not in despair, certainly in disgust. And no wonder! For the ablest and oldest men in the House were more puzzled than the youngest; and the Solicitor-General's explanations, arguments, and statements, only made "confusion worse confounded."

Just listen to the frank confessions of some of the gravest of our senators. Mr. Ellice is not usually afflicted with dulness of comprehension; on the contrary, he has been through an active life so generally remarkable for strong common sense, that we may speak of him as having almost reached the time when

Old experience doth attain
To something like prophetic strain;

yet he could make neither head nor tail of Sir Richard Bethel's notable measure.

He never heard of any bill for making regulations with respect to the English Church in the colonies, without feeling persuaded that, instead of doing good and making the Church popular with the colonial population, it would have directly the contrary effect. (Hear, hear.) He remembered when a bishop was first sent to Upper Canada, calling himself "Lord Bishop," and taking precedence, and such a feeling of jealousy was excited, that the Legislature resolved that the religion of the Church of England, as by law established, was not the religion of the majority of the inhabitants of the colony. It was the tendency of all interference to produce discontented feelings of that kind. (Hear, hear.) He thought it was absolutely necessary that those who desired to see the Church of England flourish, should endeavour entirely to separate it, as far as the colonies were concerned, from legislation in that House. He did not see the use of the present bill, and, in point of fact, did not altogether understand it, but if it was desired to relieve the Church of England in the colonies from restrictions and fetters imposed on it by any particular statute, the simplest way would be to repeal the statute.

Sir George Grey is probably one of the quickest men in either House of Parliament, but the bill equally defied him and his sagacity.

The more they discussed the question, the more they appeared to him to be legislating in the dark. He wished the hon. and learned Solicitor-General would explain what were the precise disabilities arising out of the statutes of Henry VIII and of Queen Elizabeth. The safer course would be to repeal so much of the existing law as imposed a restriction in reference to the colonies. They would then know what they were doing, and would not be passing a vague and indefinite enactment.

Mr. Joseph Napier is a gentleman of extremely

solid acquirements, a sound lawyer, and a very frank and earnest opponent. Mr. Napier was quite entitled to tell the House that he understood law; but he was obliged to add, that to understand this bill quite passed his comprehension, and "the more the Solicitor-General explained it the more obscure it became."

Mr. Henley, too, though a country gentleman of superior intelligence, "was not ashamed to confess a similar deficiency."

In fact, the only two persons in the assembly who did profess to comprehend the measure were the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Solicitor-General; but though they now unite in supporting this bill, it is not eighteen months since they differed very materially over another bill which professed to have the very same objects in view. The truth is, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has designs which the Solicitor-General has no sympathy with at all; but the legal functionary is allowing himself to be used by the more subtle politician.

When we last discussed the matter, we pointed out that the bill itself did not go so far as to state that the Act of Submission extended to the colonies, but that it only stated that doubts "may exist" on that point. The Solicitor-General now, however, asserts, that though the statute of Henry VIII does not apply, yet, as revived by the 1st Eliz. chap. 1, it *does* include the colonies: because, he argues, the latter act enacts that the supremacy of the Crown shall extend to all the Queen's dominions as well foreign as at home. But the Royal supremacy, begging Mr. Solicitor's pardon, is one thing; and the inhibition to meet in synod, and to enact canons, is quite another. The Royal supremacy may exist in the colonies; and yet the clergy in those possessions, who are in connexion with the Church at home, may, notwithstanding, have a perfect right to meet, and talk, and do what they please in matters relating to their worship. The case of Ireland clearly establishes the inconsequence of this summary style of reasoning of the Solicitor-General. For no one doubts that, by the common law, supported by the Elizabethan statute, the Queen's supremacy prevails in Ireland just as much as in England. Nevertheless, the bishops and clergy of the Church of England as established by law in Ireland, may, of their own free will, assemble in synod and therein enact canons; though, by the statute of Henry VIII, the English bishops and clergy cannot, without the licence of the Crown. In point of fact, this right is occasionally exercised in Ireland, though only formally and for the purpose of its legal assertion. But if the general terms of 1 Eliz. chapter 1, quoted by the Solicitor-General, were sufficiently strong to render colonial synods and convocations illegal, they would be equally powerful to render Irish synods unlawful; and as they have no such force in Ireland, neither have they any in the colonies.

But the Solicitor-General is reported to have made a still more startling assertion—namely, "that the Church of England in the colonies was part of the Church of England and Ireland." By what law or statute of the Imperial Legislature, may we ask? When and where did Parliament connect the Church of England with any religious establishment in the colonies? It is not by mere inference that so grave an act can be said to be accomplished; yet all the proof the Solicitor-General could furnish for his statement was an inference. In 1825 Parliament, very unfortunately, we admit, passed an act which provided for the payment out of the consolidated fund of the salaries of the Bishops of Jamaica and Barbadoes, and of very handsome salaries, too; no less than £4,000 a-year. But does that exceptional provision for two colonial bishops' stipends make the Church of England in the colonies part and parcel of the Church of England and Ireland at home? Nothing of the sort. That act is to be read and construed within its own four corners. It involved no declaration of principle, it settled no question of policy; it justifies no inference, for it relates to nothing but the means of paying two West Indian prelates; and when the Solicitor-General extorts it to any such use, he must be hard pressed indeed for reasons to excuse his mischievous bill.

For a most mischievous bill it is. Under the guise and pretence of giving a liberty and a freedom to the bishops and clergy in the colonies who are in communion with the Church at home—which liberty and freedom they already possess and enjoy—it means to clothe colonial synods and convocations with the force and sanction of Imperial legislation, in order that hereafter, when the pear is ripe enough, they may be thence re-imported into England. It is a part of the great ecclesiastical and sacerdotal conspiracy to raise the legal position of the Church from that of a corporation, subordinate and obedient to the State, into a legal position of independent and co-ordinate authority. First of all, the experiment has to be tried in the colonies; and then what has been granted to "that part of the Church of England and Ireland" which exists in the colonies, can hardly be denied to the other parts which exist at home.

Happily, however, the House of Commons is becoming alive to the danger of the measure.

ENDOWMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

Recent advices from Melbourne bring accounts of the meeting in that city of ministers, delegates, and members of the churches of the Congregational Union in the colony. At this meeting, that golden apple of discord, the question of State aid to religion, lately introduced amongst the colonists, gave rise to a good deal of discussion. The Rev. A. Morison, the chairman of the Union, presided, and read a very able address. He stated that the object of the Union was the association of the several Independent churches, without one exercising supervision or control over the other, and, after a comprehensive glance at the re-

ligious aspect of the times, he concluded by explaining the views and principles of Independency. The Rev. T. Odell, secretary of the society, read a very able report of the state of the churches. The reports showed that there were fourteen Independent ministers in the colony, most of whom were possessed of flourishing and increasing churches; and that the objects of the society were mutual sympathy and co-operation, the strengthening of weak and infant churches, and training up a native ministry for the gospel; and that while the Union would be jealous of any interference with the independence of the several churches, it would at the same time stand as a bulwark of defence against any State aid or interference in religion. Some confusion took place on the introduction of a resolution by Mr. T. Fulton, condemnatory of a proposed grant of £50,000 by the Colonial Government for religious purposes; and recommending the several Independent churches to protest against it. Dr. E. Bling, of Collingwood, president of the "Christian Young Men's Association," seconded the resolution, in an earnest and thoroughly Nonconformist speech, declaring that an irresponsible assembly had no right to legislate for them on this subject, and hand down to their children's children this much-vexed question. The chairman lamented that the question had been introduced, as it could do no good to agitate it then; the force against them being as four to one. The Rev. Mr. Landells (formerly of Sheffield) spoke in support of the resolution. He thought a strong, unanimous, emphatic, and most unmistakeable protest ought to be put in before the Council, lest this fearful measure should be saddled on us by the State. He said that it was a section of the Congregational body of England and Wales that had, in religious liberty, been the breakwater between the Government and the people—conserving, on the one hand, the principles of freedom in the religious world at large, and stemming and keeping back religious centralization and governmental usurpation on the other. He knew of no ecclesiastical State support more formidable than the present measure, upholding alike truth and error. They would, as Independents, lose their own self-respect, forget their denominational principles, and bring shame on the glory of Nonconformity in England and the world, if they allowed the present season to pass without putting in a most determined protest. The resolution, on being put, was carried amidst vociferous cheering, the chairman and one other person only voting against it.—In the course of the proceedings, a resolution was passed expressive of the pleasure with which the churches would welcome the arrival of the Revs. Messrs. Fletcher and Poore, of Manchester, the two ministers sent out from England by the Colonial Missionary Society. Some other business resolutions were proposed and carried, of no general public interest; and it was recommended to the consideration of the committee, that the meetings for the future should be half-yearly instead of annually, and that a new chairman should be elected every half-year, and that the next meeting should take place at Geelong.

CHURCH AND STATE IN PIEDMONT.

A Piedmontese correspondent of the *Times* has transmitted a translation of two significant and formidable documents, one, an address to the King from the bishops of the ecclesiastical province of Turin; the other, from the bishops of Savoy to the Senate. In the former, the attention of his Majesty is called to "the proselytism which has for some time been exercised in the towns and provinces by the Protestant heresy; which does not neglect anything to get followers, by engaging, not only by means of writings, but also with diatribes in public places, against the Catholic dogmas, and even so far as to seduce people by money in secret." The bishops especially lament "the profanation, for some time past, of the festivals consecrated to the memory of the mysteries of our religion, to the worship of the Lord, of the Blessed Virgin, and of the Saints." But the chief subject of their lamentation is, "the abuses introduced into the education of the young; history being made to serve to detract and revile the Supreme Pontiff, the Episcopacy, and the ministers of the Catholic Church; geology, natural history, and painting, to insinuate pantheism, to offend modesty, to induce corruption of manners;" while "youth is almost entirely removed from the influence of the pastors of the soul." With regard to the non-observance of saints' days and Church festivals (remarks the *Times* correspondent), as the suppression of these by the Government has obtained the Pontifical sanction, it is rather too late for the bishops to come forward with their lamentations on that subject.

The address to the Senate from the bishops of Savoy is of a more argumentative character, and is directed against the proposed modifications of the Penal Code, intended to secure liberty of conscience to those who profess the tolerated religions. "Why a new law for that purpose?" they ask. "Toleration is secured to the Protestants and the Jews by the first article of the constitutional statute." "But liberty of conscience must not be confounded with liberty of propagandism." "If this project of law should be adopted, it would then be permitted to teach publicly that every one is free to believe as he wishes, and that the authority of a Church is a chimera." And while, in the first article of the project of law, "favours" are thus lavished on the Protestants, in the second, the bishops say, "chains are rattled to frighten the Catholic clergy," since they must be the parties pointed at in the clause which inflicts the penalty of imprisonment on any ministers of religion who, in the exercise of their ministry, shall pronounce in a public assembly a discourse containing censure of the institutions and laws of the State. This seems to indicate a consciousness that the priests are the only "ministers of religion" chargeable with so abusing their office for the purpose of sedition. It is frankly admitted,

indeed, that the "Catholic clergy have not demonstrated so much sympathy towards the Government as might be desired; and the explanation assigned is, that they disapprove of the violation of the concordat with the Holy See; of the arrest and exile of the Archbishops of Turin and Cagliari; of the unlimited favours granted to Protestantism; and of the impunity with which the journals are allowed to abuse the Pope and the bishops." Then follows a reference to the policy of the English Government. That Government, it is remarked, seems perfectly to understand the importance of "keeping the Church and State in good accord; it has much regard for the clergy of the Established Church; and, although they are so rich, there is no intention of sequestrating their property. It may be added, that even the Catholic clergy are better treated in England than they are in our States."

The bill has, however, passed the Chamber of Deputies, and the Government appear confident of being able to carry it through the Senate, notwithstanding the adverse report of the commission, though it is feared it may undergo some mutilation. Its twofold object is, to modify those clauses of the Penal Code which relate to offences against the religion of the State, and to bring the priesthood within the reach of the law; both modifications being alike distasteful to the priest party. It appears that the Government have disclaimed the intention to propose the suppression of any religious houses at present. The seizure of the funds belonging to the Seminary of Turin has given great umbrage: its affairs are to undergo rigid investigation.

NO CHURCH-RATE AT WISBEACH.—Some considerable time has elapsed since the laying of a rate of this kind; and in preference to another resort to such means for raising a fund, it has been determined to put the Voluntary principle to the test, and a collection is now going on for that purpose. No difficulty whatever is found in obtaining the necessary amount of money.—*Cambridge Independent Press.*

KING'S LYNN.—The churchwardens called a meeting on Monday last, to make a Church-rate. The meeting was a very crowded one, and after the accounts for the past year were audited, a motion was made to adjourn to the Town Hall, which was carried, and the rate-payers left en masse and passed to that building. Mr. Cresswell, minister's warden, proposed a rate of five-pence in the pound; which being seconded, Mr. John Wigg moved that no rate be granted; and the chairman—Rev. Canon Wodehouse—declared the rate lost. A poll was demanded by the pro-rate party. The first day's poll showed:—against the rate, 141; for the rate, 106; majority, 35.

CHURCH-RATES AT ABERDEEN.—(From a Correspondent.)—I am glad to inform you that Church-rates are at an end in this parish. At a vestry held this day, April 17, which was numerously attended by Dissenters, after a little discussion on the appointment of churchwardens, the vicar said that he did not intend to disturb the parish any more on Church-rates. The following resolution was passed unanimously and entered in the vestry book, that we may have a record to refer to in case of dispute:—"Having heard from the vicar and churchwardens that it is not intended to disturb the parish again by proposing a Church-rate, this vestry is desirous of recording its grateful sense of their liberal conduct in this matter."

CHURCH-RATE DEFEATED BY A ROMAN CATHOLIC.—A vestry meeting of the rate-payers of Dinedor, near Hereford, was held on Thursday last, for the purpose of making a rate. A rate of 1d. in the pound was moved and seconded. Charles Thomas Bodenham, Esq., a Roman Catholic, opposed the proposition. He said the time was arrived when any pecuniary obligation, in the nature of "Church-rates," should no longer be imposed upon the Dissenters of England; and he hoped to see the day when every man should be called upon to pay his own parish, and no other. He expressed himself in high personal regard for the rector of the parish, and for their worthy chairman, the Rev. Mr. Tiley; but being from feeling and conviction decidedly averse to the principle on which the "rates" were demanded, he should give to the proposed measure his most strenuous opposition. He quoted the sentiment expressed by the Archbishop of Winchester, the Ven. Archdeacon "Wigram," Rector of St. Mary's, in Southampton, who, when presiding at a meeting held in the vestry of that church, a church-rate having been proposed by one of the churchwardens, refused to submit such proposition to the meeting. The amendment was seconded by Mr. Trusted, and, upon a show of hands, it was carried by a majority of 7 to 3.

CHURCH-RATE FOR A CHURCH NON-EST.—The *Oxford Chronicle* reports the hearing of a summons taken out against the Rev. Thomas Roberts, Independent minister of Brackley, for non-payment of a Church-rate amounting to 1s. The rev. gentleman made a number of objections to the payment of the rate:—

Mr. Litchfield (clergyman): You mean that the law has not been properly carried out. Mr. Roberts said he did. It might be averred that, as a Dissenting minister, he was resisting the law, but he had no such intention.

Mr. Pierrepont: Then you don't stand upon conscientious grounds, but on legal and technical objections.

Mr. Roberts said he did so in the present case. He had conscientious objections to the payment of the rate; but, if he could get rid of his liability to pay on legal grounds, he should not plead his conscientious scruples.

Mr. George, the collector, said the church of St. James's was built some years ago by the woolstaplers, by private subscriptions.

Mr. Litchfield: I don't think we can enter into the question of the origin of the church, but it was no doubt consecrated and transferred in the usual way. You mean, that as there is actually no church now in existence, and, therefore, there being no necessity for churchwardens, there can be no legal duties performed.

Mr. Roberts: There cannot be churchwardens, because there is no church.

Mr. Weston: The money goes towards the purposes and repairs of Mother Church.

Mr. Perrepoint: It is a parish within a parish.

The magistrates ordered the room to be cleared, and after consulting together a short time, Mr. Pierpoint said, they had decided on allowing the summons to stand over for the present; but perhaps it would be more convenient if Mr. Roberts would state his other objections to the rate. Mr. Roberts did so; but the main question arising out of the preceding ones, the case was adjourned *sine die*.

THE CANONRY RESIDENTIARY IN SALISBURY CATHEDRAL, rendered vacant by the preferment of the Rev. Walter Kerr Hamilton to the bishopric of the diocese, has been conferred upon the Rev. Robert Bickersteth, M.A., rector of St. Giles's-in-the-Fields, formerly incumbent of St. John's Church, Clapham. The new canon is a nephew of the late Lord Langdale, Master of the Rolls.

LORD HARROWBY'S CHURCH DEMOLITION BILL.—We understand that the only meliorations which the Select Committee have introduced into this bill, are limiting its operation to contiguous parishes, and inserting a clause, that when a church is pulled down, the Church Building Commissioners shall have power to re-arrange the seats and pews in the church of the united benefice, and shall make not less than a third of them free. —*Morning Chronicle*.

AT A MEETING OF THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN PRESBYTERY at Glasgow, resolutions expressing a qualified approval of the Lord Advocate's Bill on education, but expressing decided disapprobation of the 27th clause, which requires school committees to set apart an hour for religious instruction, and of the 36th clause, for aiding denominational schools out of the funds raised by the general rate, were carried by 15 to 11.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.—The *Staats Anzeiger* of Sunday, the 9th inst., contains the text of a law passed in this session, which will interest many of your readers:—"Male foreigners who may in our States desire to contract marriage with a female Prussian subject, or with a female foreigner, have, in addition to their fulfilment of all other requirements of the law, to prove, by a properly-attested certificate from the authorities of the place they come from, that they are, according to the laws of their country, competent to contract a marriage abroad, or have, in conformity with those laws, received a license to enter on the said marriage." The main object of this law is to protect Prussian women from the consequences of marrying foreigners, the legislation of whose respective countries may offer obstacles to their settlement there being recognised in case of the death or misfortune of the husband. This half of the case has respect chiefly to Germans, the second almost exclusively to English. Every summer and autumn for two years past I have observed in the ladies' corner of your columns a number of matrimonial advertisements, all commencing with—"At Duisburg, by the Rev. Mr. Krummacher." On inquiry, I ascertained, as I expected, that these couples consisted always of widowers marrying the sisters of their deceased wives. It is to prevent the continuation of this practice that the second half of this law is directed. The Prussian Government will not connive at British subjects making use of its territory and institutions for the infraction of British laws. The town of Duisburg owes its distinction as a Rhenish Gretna-green to the circumstance of its easy approachableness from England; while it is the only place in the Rhine provinces where the *Code Napoleon* is not still in force, which requires a six months' domicile previous to the celebration of the ceremony. The wedding traffic at Duisburg has hitherto been carried on according to a regularly organised plan, in which innkeepers, &c., there stood in close connexion with a society in London for the promotion or execution of such marriages. —*Times Correspondent at Berlin*.

Religious and Educational Intelligence.

THE BAPTIST ANNIVERSARIES.

In consequence of the appointment of Wednesday, the 26th, as a day of humiliation and prayer, changes in the arrangements of the services have been rendered necessary. The Annual Sermon will be omitted this year, and the Designation Service will be held on Wednesday evening, the 26th, at Bloomsbury Chapel, at half-past six, and not at Surrey Chapel, on Friday morning, as previously announced. The other services remain unaltered.

WEEKLY TRACT SOCIETY.

The Sixth Annual Meeting of this Society was held on Wednesday evening, at Freemasons' hall, under the presidency of James Kershaw, Esq., M.P.

The Rev. Mr. Young having opened the proceedings with prayer, the CHAIRMAN, after some introductory remarks on the value of missionary societies in general, said: He cordially approved of the objects, and mode of operation, of the Weekly Tract Society, and most sincerely desired for it abundant success. The means employed he considered to be well adapted to secure the end which it was sought to accomplish—namely, the religious, moral, social, and intellectual advancement of the people, especially of the working classes. (Hear, hear.) He had read with peculiar pleasure many of the tracts of this society, and felt bound to say, that he had never before met with

publications which, in his opinion, were so well adapted to bring about the result for which they were designed. (Cheers.) It was especially necessary, at the present time, and in a city like London, that there should be a very extensive circulation of good, healthy, moral, and Christian literature, suitable to the middle and working classes of the community, with a view, if possible, to neutralise the effect of the foolish and vicious publications which, unhappily, were being issued from the press in such fearful abundance. (Hear, hear.) Rightly viewed, indeed, it would be plain, beyond a doubt, that an imperative duty devolved upon the Christian people of the land, to see to it that every possible effort is put forth for the promotion of this object. It was a duty which could only be neglected by the Christian Church at its peril, because while Christian people remained inactive, thousands of immortal souls were perishing around them for lack of that knowledge which, if received into the heart, would be effectual unto their eternal salvation. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. W. H. ELLIOT, the secretary, read a lengthened report of the operations of the society during the past year, from which it appeared that 520,000 tracts had been gratuitously circulated, and 160,000 sold at cost price, making a total of 680,000 publications, each one embodying the essential truths of the Gospel of Christ. This, the committee were happy to report, was a considerable advancement upon the issues of the previous year; but, at the same time, they could see no reason why the number might not be immediately increased to at least 20,000 a-week, or double the present circulation. (Hear, hear.) It should be remembered, that this could be accomplished at but little additional expense. (Hear, hear.) The object, moreover, which the society had in view, unlike many, could be engaged in by all sections of the Church of God, seeing that nothing of an exclusive or sectarian character whatever attached either to the objects of the society or the modes of operation. Its simple design was to instruct a multitude of people, by means of a weekly tract, in the truths of the Gospel, who could not be reached by any other means than that of the press. Every Christian man must, of necessity, regard such an object with favour, and an earnest appeal was therefore made to the Christian public in general, to render all the aid in their power towards the support and enlargement of the association. The sum received during the past year was £668 5s. 5d., being £45 8s. more than the expenditure. There were bills, however, which would in a few days become due, and absorb this balance in hand; and, therefore, immediate and generous donations and subscriptions were very earnestly solicited.

B. SWALLOW, Esq., moved the adoption of the report and the appointment of the committee and officers for the year ensuing, which was seconded by the Rev. Mr. Ashby, B.A., who drew attention to the simplicity of the society's operations, as well as to its thoroughly Christian and unsectarian character.

The Rev. WILLIAM LEASK was then called upon to speak to the following sentiment:—"Man a Religious Being; Christianity the only system meeting the wants and supplying the need of his nature;" and was followed by the

Rev. C. H. SPURGEON, of New Park-street Chapel, who submitted the second sentiment:—"The Propagation of Christian Truth, next to the Possession of Personal Religion, the Great Duty of Professors of the Gospel."

The Rev. Dr. ARCHER spoke to the third sentiment:—"The Press—Periodical Literature an Effective and Powerful Agency for the Reclamation and Conversion of the Masses." The press in our country had altogether ceased to be what it once was. Instead of books being confined to the few, they were in everybody's hands, and it was absolutely necessary, therefore, that a different and more varied system should be pursued now to awaken the consciences of the people, and to inform their understandings, to that which was alone possible in former times. If a bad literature existed, it must be met by a good one. (Hear, hear.) For his own part, he would not imprison a single atheist, or call in the aid of the law to prevent any man teaching that which he might believe to be the truth; but would endeavour to put error to silence by a bold and fearless exhibition of the truth by means of the press; and it was because this society was doing its part to expose the pantheistic notions which a certain set of men were seeking to diffuse among the people, and to displace the immoral publications of the day, that he felt constrained to give it his most cordial advocacy, and commend it to the general and generous support of the Christian public of these kingdoms.

On the motion of JOHN CHURCHILL, Esq., seconded by Dr. OXLEY, a unanimous vote of thanks was presented to the Chairman, which having been briefly acknowledged, the proceedings terminated with the Doxology and Benediction.

THE REV. JOHN SPOONER of Attleboro', near Nuneaton, Warwickshire, has accepted the unanimous invitation of the church and congregation at Haddenham, Cambs.

SYDENHAM.—The Rev. T. C. Hine (late of Plymouth) has accepted an invitation to become the pastor of Park Chapel, Sydenham, Kent, recently opened by the London Congregational Chapel Building Society.

ABERGAVENNY.—The Rev. J. C. Butterworth, late of Kingstansley, Gloucestershire, has accepted the unanimous invitation of the Baptist Church meeting in Frogmore-street, and commenced his pastoral duties last Sunday.

WHITSTABLE, KENT.—At a tea-meeting held in Zion Chapel, Whitstable, the Rev. J. E. Toomer, of Wingham, in the chair, the Rev. D. Harrison was presented by Mr. W. Knight, in the name of the deacons and contributors, with an elegant silver tea-pot and milk

ewer, as a memento of his zealous pastoral labours in that sphere during a period of twenty years. The address was suitably acknowledged by Mr. Harrison, and the meeting was afterwards addressed by the Revs. H. J. Rook, of Eaversham, T. Wilkinson (Wesleyan) of Whitstable, H. Carvell, of Canterbury, and D. Waller, of Wingham.

SUFFOLK CONGREGATIONAL UNION.—The half-yearly meeting of this Association was held at Clare, on the 10th and 11th inst. The "Introductory Sermon" was preached by the Rev. E. B. Hickman of Buxford, on Monday evening. The "Union Sermon" by the Rev. John Raven, of Ipswich, on Tuesday morning; and two addresses were delivered in the evening by Revs. John Gill, of Sudbury, and Henry Coleman, of Wickhambrook.

SUDBURY.—On the 13th inst. the foundation-stone of Sunday-school and class-rooms, in connexion with the Old Meeting House, Friars-street, was laid by Mr. Barker, the senior trustee, in the presence of a large assembly. Devotional engagements were conducted by Rev. W. Bentley, (Baptist), and an address was delivered by Rev. J. Gill, minister of the place. It is a gratifying circumstance that the entire estimated cost (£285) was raised before the contract was signed, three-fourths of the amount having been contributed during the last two months.

SIDBURY, DEVON.—The Rev. Charles Howell, after having been engaged in the ministry for upwards of forty-six years, more than thirty of which was exercised over the Independent Church at Alton, Hants, has felt constrained, in consequence of a severe illness, to resign his charge here, and to retire from active labour. This—while grateful that up to the time above referred to he had never had a silent Sabbath since he entered the ministry—he has done amidst the regrets of his church and people, as expressed in an address spontaneously drawn up and presented to him, after receiving the signatures of the greater number of members and subscribers connected with this church.

CHAVEN CHAPEL.—At a large meeting of the church and congregation, on Wednesday evening, the Rev. Dr. Leifeild announced that he felt himself unequal, at his advanced age, to the discharge, in a manner satisfactory to his own mind, of the duties of pastor to so numerous a charge. He should, therefore, take his leave of them on Tuesday, the 2nd of May next, when a valedictory service would be held, at which he expected the presence of the Rev. James Stratton, and other old and esteemed brother ministers, with whom it had been his happiness to be long associated. It is, we believe, in contemplation to entertain the venerable minister at a public dinner on the day mentioned, and to present to him a substantial memorial of the affection and esteem of his own people, and of the Christian public generally.

PUDSEY.—The Rev. T. Jowett has resigned the pastorate of the Independent church and congregation, after having sustained that relationship for a period of six years, and will shortly terminate his labours here. The members of the church, at their last meeting, having heard his fixed determination to do so, passed the following resolution, without one dissentient:—

That this meeting having heard the determination of their pastor, the Rev. T. Jowett, to tender at an early period his resignation, would express their deep regret that any such impediment to his usefulness should have existed, and would respectfully convey to him their expressions of the high appreciation which they entertain of his moral worth and efficient services during a pastorate of six years. And they would embrace this opportunity of recording their gratitude to Almighty God for the many tokens of Divine blessing which have followed his labours, as is manifest in the large accessions to the church and schools, and in various other departments; and they would further assure him that, wherever Providence may place him, he will be followed by their best wishes and ardent prayers for his future usefulness and happiness.

STAMFORD.—On Friday evening a public tea meeting was held in the Congregational school-room on the occasion of the first anniversary of the settlement of the Rev. B. O. Bendall as pastor. A numerous company enjoyed the hour of social intercourse; and to the public meeting an increased number assembled. The chair was taken by the minister, and the meeting was addressed by a staff of laymen on topics appropriate. The past year forms an important page in the history of the place; it has been signalized by the establishment of a Congregational Library, adapted to the working classes. A grant was obtained from the Tract Society, to which additions have been made. The books have been extensively circulated in the town. A public day-school has been opened, based on religious principles, supported by voluntary contributions, and a large number of children are in attendance. Efforts have been made to promote Congregational Psalmody by the introduction of a harmonium, and the adoption of the easy and devotional tunes of the Rev. J. Waite. Preparations are being made for a Fancy Bazaar, to provide a fund for the liquidation of the existing debt, which will be held next month.

HOME AND SCHOOL FOR THE SONS AND ORPHANS OF MISSIONARIES.—On Wednesday last, the annual examination of the pupils took place at the Institution, Nos. 1 and 2, Mornington-crescent; when the Rev. Joshua C. Harrison, of Park Chapel, presided. There were also present, the Rev. J. B. Brown, Rev. W. Tyler, N. Griffiths, Esq., George Tyler, Esq., Charles Reed, Esq., &c., besides a numerous party of ladies. The business was conducted by the Chairman and Mr. Lemon, B.A., the Principal of the School, and consisted of an examination in the Holy Scriptures, in Grecian, Roman, and English History, and the ordinary branches of a sound education; besides which, there had previously been a written examination in Latin, Junior Greek, Mathematics, embracing Euclid and the Elements of Algebra, and Arithmetic. The pupils gave satisfactory evidence of their careful training, and proved the value of the services which the teachers are rendering to the interesting objects of their charge. To the committee and friends of the institution, the progress of the chil-

solid acquirements, a sound lawyer, and a very frank and earnest opponent. Mr. Napier was quite entitled to tell the House that he understood law; but he was obliged to add, that to understand this bill quite passed his comprehension, and "the more the Solicitor-General explained it the more obscure it became."

Mr. Henley, too, though a country gentleman of superior intelligence, "was not ashamed to confess a similar deficiency."

In fact, the only two persons in the assembly who did profess to comprehend the measure were the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Solicitor-General; but though they now unite in supporting this bill, it is not eighteen months since they differed very materially over another bill which professed to have the very same objects in view. The truth is, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has designs which the Solicitor-General has no sympathy with at all; but the legal functionary is allowing himself to be used by the more subtle politician.

When we last discussed the matter, we pointed out that the bill itself did not go so far as to state that the Act of Submission extended to the colonies, but that it only stated that doubts "may exist" on that point. The Solicitor-General now, however, asserts, that though the statute of Henry VIII does not apply, yet, as revived by the 1st Eliz. chap. 1, it *does* include the colonies: because, he argues, the latter act enacts that the supremacy of the Crown shall extend to all the Queen's dominions as well foreign as at home. But the Royal supremacy, begging Mr. Solicitor's pardon, is one thing; and the inhibition to meet in synod, and to enact canons, is quite another. The Royal supremacy may exist in the colonies; and yet the clergy in those possessions, who are in connexion with the Church at home, may, notwithstanding, have a perfect right to meet, and talk, and do what they please in matters relating to their worship. The case of Ireland clearly establishes the inconsequence of this summary style of reasoning of the Solicitor-General. For no one doubts that, by the common law, supported by the Elizabethan statute, the Queen's supremacy prevails in Ireland just as much as in England. Nevertheless, the bishops and clergy of the Church of England as established by law in Ireland, may, of their own free will, assemble in synod and therein enact canons; though, by the statute of Henry VIII, the English bishops and clergy cannot, without the licence of the Crown. In point of fact, this right is occasionally exercised in Ireland, though only formally and for the purpose of its legal assertion. But if the general terms of 1 Eliz. chapter 1, quoted by the Solicitor-General, were sufficiently strong to render colonial synods and convocations illegal, they would be equally powerful to render Irish synods unlawful; and as they have no such force in Ireland, neither have they any in the colonies.

But the Solicitor-General is reported to have made a still more startling assertion—namely, "that the Church of England in the colonies was part of the Church of England and Ireland." By what law or statute of the Imperial Legislature, may we ask? When and where did Parliament connect the Church of England with any religious establishment in the colonies? It is not by mere inference that so grave an act can be said to be accomplished; yet all the proof the Solicitor-General could furnish for his statement was an inference. In 1825 Parliament, very unfortunately, we admit, passed an act which provided for the payment out of the consolidated fund of the salaries of the Bishops of Jamaica and Barbadoes, and of very handsome salaries, too; no less than £4,000 a-year. But does that exceptional provision for two colonial bishops' stipends make the Church of England in the colonies part and parcel of the Church of England and Ireland at home? Nothing of the sort. That act is to be read and construed within its own four corners. It involved no declaration of principle, it settled no question of policy; it justifies no inference, for it relates to nothing but the means of paying two West Indian prelates; and when the Solicitor-General extorts it to any such use, he must be hard pressed indeed for reasons to excuse his mischievous bill.

For a most mischievous bill it is. Under the guise and pretence of giving a liberty and a freedom to the bishops and clergy in the colonies who are in communion with the Church at home—which liberty and freedom they already possess and enjoy—it means to clothe colonial synods and convocations with the force and sanction of Imperial legislation, in order that hereafter, when the pear is ripe enough, they may be thence re-imported into England. It is a part of the great ecclesiastical and sacerdotal conspiracy to raise the legal position of the Church from that of a corporation, subordinate and obedient to the State, into a legal position of independent and co-ordinate authority. First of all, the experiment has to be tried in the colonies; and then what has been granted to "that part of the Church of England and Ireland" which exists in the colonies, can hardly be denied to the other parts which exist at home.

Happily, however, the House of Commons is becoming alive to the danger of the measure.

ENDOWMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

Recent advices from Melbourne bring accounts of the meeting in that city of ministers, delegates, and members of the churches of the Congregational Union in the colony. At this meeting, that golden apple of discord, the question of State aid to religion, lately introduced amongst the colonists, gave rise to a good deal of discussion. The Rev. A. Morison, the chairman of the Union, presided, and read a very able address. He stated that the object of the Union was the association of the several Independent churches, without one exercising supervision or control over the other, and, after a comprehensive glance at the re-

ligious aspect of the times, he concluded by explaining the views and principles of Independency. The Rev. T. Odell, secretary of the society, read a very able report of the state of the churches. The reports showed that there were fourteen Independent ministers in the colony, most of whom were possessed of flourishing and increasing churches; and that the objects of the society were mutual sympathy and co-operation, the strengthening of weak and infant churches, and training up a native ministry for the gospel; and that while the Union would be jealous of any interference with the independence of the several churches, it would at the same time stand as a bulwark of defence against any State aid or interference in religion. Some confusion took place on the introduction of a resolution by Mr. T. Fulton, condemnatory of a proposed grant of £50,000 by the Colonial Government for religious purposes; and recommending the several Independent churches to protest against it. Dr. E. Bling, of Collingwood, president of the "Christian Young Men's Association," seconded the resolution, in an earnest and thoroughly Nonconformist speech, declaring that an irresponsible assembly had no right to legislate for them on this subject, and hand down to their children's children this much-vexed question. The chairman lamented that the question had been introduced, as it could do no good to agitate it then; the force against them being as four to one. The Rev. Mr. Landells (formerly of Sheffield) spoke in support of the resolution. He thought a strong, unanimous, emphatic, and most unmistakable protest ought to be put in before the Council, lest this fearful measure should be saddled on us by the State. He said that it was a section of the Congregational body of England and Wales that had, in religious liberty, been the breakwater between the Government and the people—conserving, on the one hand, the principles of freedom in the religious world at large, and stemming and keeping back religious centralization and governmental usurpation on the other. He knew of no ecclesiastical State support more formidable than the present measure, upholding alike truth and error. They would, as Independents, lose their own self-respect, forget their denominational principles, and bring shame on the glory of Nonconformity in England and the world, if they allowed the present season to pass without putting in a most determined protest. The resolution, on being put, was carried amidst vociferous cheering, the chairman and one other person only voting against it.—In the course of the proceedings, a resolution was passed expressive of the pleasure with which the churches would welcome the arrival of the Revs. Messrs. Fletcher and Poore, of Manchester, the two ministers sent out from England by the Colonial Missionary Society. Some other business resolutions were proposed and carried, of no general public interest; and it was recommended to the consideration of the committee, that the meetings for the future should be half-yearly instead of annually, and that a new chairman should be elected every half-year, and that the next meeting should take place at Geelong.

CHURCH AND STATE IN PIEDMONT.

A Piedmontese correspondent of the *Times* has transmitted a translation of two significant and formidable documents, one, an address to the King from the bishops of the ecclesiastical province of Turin; the other, from the bishops of Savoy to the Senate. In the former, the attention of his Majesty is called to "the proselytism which has for some time been exercised in the towns and provinces by the Protestant heresy; which does not neglect anything to get followers, by engaging, not only by means of writings, but also with diatribes in public places, against the Catholic dogmas, and even so far as to seduce people by money in secret." The bishops especially lament "the profanation, for some time past, of the festivals consecrated to the memory of the mysteries of our religion, to the worship of the Lord, of the Blessed Virgin, and of the Saints." But the chief subject of their lamentation is, "the abuses introduced into the education of the young; history being made to serve to detract and revile the Supreme Pontiff, the Episcopacy, and the ministers of the Catholic Church; geology, natural history, and painting, to insinuate pantheism, to offend modesty, to induce corruption of manners;" while "youth is almost entirely removed from the influence of the pastors of the soul." With regard to the non-observance of saints' days and Church festivals (remarks the *Times* correspondent), as the suppression of these by the Government has obtained the Pontifical sanction, it is rather too late for the bishops to come forward with their lamentations on that subject.

The address to the Senate from the bishops of Savoy is of a more argumentative character, and is directed against the proposed modifications of the Penal Code, intended to secure liberty of conscience to those who profess the tolerated religions. "Why a new law for that purpose?" they ask. "Toleration is secured to the Protestants and the Jews by the first article of the constitutional statute." "But liberty of conscience must not be confounded with liberty of propagandism." "If this project of law should be adopted, it would then be permitted to teach publicly that every one is free to believe as he wishes, and that the authority of a Church is a chimera." And while, in the first article of the project of law, "favours" are thus lavished on the Protestants, in the second, the bishops say, "chains are rattled to frighten the Catholic clergy," since they must be the parties pointed at in the clause which inflicts the penalty of imprisonment on any ministers of religion who, in the exercise of their ministry, shall pronounce in a public assembly a discourse containing censure of the institutions and laws of the State. This seems to indicate a consciousness that the priests are the only "ministers of religion" chargeable with so abusing their office for the purpose of sedition. It is frankly admitted,

indeed, that the "Catholic clergy have not demonstrated so much sympathy towards the Government as might be desired; and the explanation assigned is, that they disapprove of the violation of the concordat with the Holy See; of the arrest and exile of the Archbishops of Turin and Cagliari; of the unlimited favours granted to Protestantism; and of the impunity with which the journals are allowed to abuse the Pope and the bishops." Then follows a reference to the policy of the English Government. That Government, it is remarked, seems perfectly to understand the importance of "keeping the Church and State in good accord; it has much regard for the clergy of the Established Church; and, although they are so rich, there is no intention of sequestrating their property. It may be added, that even the Catholic clergy are better treated in England than they are in our States."

The bill has, however, passed the Chamber of Deputies, and the Government appear confident of being able to carry it through the Senate, notwithstanding the adverse report of the commission, though it is feared it may undergo some mutilation. Its twofold object is, to modify those clauses of the Penal Code which relate to offences against the religion of the State, and to bring the priesthood within the reach of the law; both modifications being alike distasteful to the priest party. It appears that the Government have disclaimed the intention to propose the suppression of any religious houses at present. The seizure of the funds belonging to the Seminary of Turin has given great umbrage: its affairs are to undergo rigid investigation.

NO CHURCH-RATE AT WISBEACH.—Some considerable time has elapsed since the laying of a rate of this kind; and in preference to another resort to such means for raising a fund, it has been determined to put the Voluntary principle to the test, and a collection is now going on for that purpose. No difficulty whatever is found in obtaining the necessary amount of money.—*Cambridge Independent Press.*

KING'S LYNN.—The churchwardens called a meeting on Monday last, to make a Church-rate. The meeting was a very crowded one, and after the accounts for the past year were audited, a motion was made to adjourn to the Town Hall, which was carried, and the rate-payers left *en masse* and passed to that building. Mr. Crosswell, minister's warden, proposed a rate of five-pence in the pound; which being seconded, Mr. John Wigg moved that no rate be granted; and the chairman—Rev. Canon Wodehouse—declared the rate lost. A poll was demanded by the pro-rate party. The first day's poll showed:—against the rate, 141; for the rate, 106; majority, 35.

CHURCH-RATES AT ABERDARE.—(From a Correspondent.)—I am glad to inform you that Church-rates are at an end in this parish. At a vestry held this day, April 17, which was numerously attended by Dissenters, after a little discussion on the appointment of churchwardens, the vicar said that he did not intend to disturb the parish any more on Church-rates. The following resolution was passed unanimously and entered in the vestry book, that we may have a record to refer to in case of dispute:—"Having heard from the vicar and churchwardens that it is not intended to disturb the parish again by proposing a Church-rate, this vestry is desirous of recording its grateful sense of their liberal conduct in this matter."

CHURCH-RATE DEFEATED BY A ROMAN CATHOLIC.—A vestry meeting of the rate-payers of Dinedor, near Hereford, was held on Thursday last, for the purpose of making a rate. A rate of 1½d. in the pound was moved and seconded. Charles Thomas Bodenham, Esq., a Roman Catholic, opposed the proposition. He said the time was arrived when any pecuniary obligation, in the nature of "Church-rates," should no longer be imposed upon the Dissenters of England; and he hoped to see the day when every man should be called upon to pay his own parson, and no other. He expressed himself in high personal regard for the rector of the parish, and for their worthy chairman, the Rev. Mr. Tiley; but being from feeling and conviction decidedly averse to the principle on which the "rates" were demanded, he should give to the proposed measure his most strenuous opposition. He quoted the sentiment expressed by the Archdeacon of Winchester, the Ven. Archdeacon "Wigram," Rector of St. Mary's, in Southampton, who, when presiding at a meeting held in the vestry of that church, a church-rate having been proposed by one of the churchwardens, refused to submit such proposition to the meeting. The amendment was seconded by Mr. Trusted, and, upon a show of hands, it was carried by a majority of 7 to 3.

CHURCH-RATE FOR A CHURCH NON EST.—The *Oxford Chronicle* reports the hearing of a summons taken out against the Rev. Thomas Roberts, Independent minister of Brackley, for non-payment of a Church-rate amounting to 1s. The rev. gentleman made a number of objections to the payment of the rate:—

Mr. Litchfield (clergyman): You mean that the law has not been properly carried out. Mr. Roberts said he did. It might be averred that, as a Dissenting minister, he was resisting the law, but he had no such intention.

Mr. Pierpoint: Then you don't stand upon conscientious grounds, but on legal and technical objections.

Mr. Roberts said he did so in the present case. He had conscientious objections to the payment of the rate; but, if he could get rid of his liability to pay on legal grounds, he should not plead his conscientious scruples.

Mr. George, the collector, said the church of St. James's was built some years ago by the woolstaplers, by private subscriptions.

Mr. Litchfield: I don't think we can enter into the question of the origin of the church, but it was no doubt consecrated and transferred in the usual way. You mean, that as there is actually no church now in existence, and, therefore, there being no necessity for churchwardens, there can be no legal duties performed.

Mr. Roberts: There cannot be churchwardens, because there is no church.

Mr. Weston: The money goes towards the purposes and repairs of Mother Church.

Mr. Perrepoint: It is a parish within a parish.

The magistrates ordered the room to be cleared, and after consulting together a short time, Mr. Perrepoint said, they had decided on allowing the summons to stand over for the present; but perhaps it would be more convenient if Mr. Roberts would state his other objections to the rate. Mr. Roberts did so; but the main question arising out of the preceding ones, the case was adjourned *sine die*.

THE CANONRY RESIDENTIARY IN SALISBURY CATHEDRAL, rendered vacant by the preferment of the Rev. Walter Kerr Hamilton to the bishopric of the diocese, has been conferred upon the Rev. Robert Bickersteth, M.A., rector of St. Giles's-in-the-Fields, formerly incumbent of St. John's Church, Clapham. The new canon is a nephew of the late Lord Langdale, Master of the Rolls.

LORD HARROWBY'S CHURCH DEMOLITION BILL.—We understand that the only meliorations which the Select Committee have introduced into this bill, are limiting its operation to contiguous parishes, and inserting a clause, that when a church is pulled down, the Church Building Commissioners shall have power to re-arrange the seats and pews in the church of the united benefice, and shall make not less than a third of them free.—*Morning Chronicle*.

AT A MEETING OF THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN PRESBYTERY at Glasgow, resolutions expressing a qualified approval of the Lord Advocate's Bill on education, but expressing decided disapprobation of the 27th clause, which requires school committees to set apart an hour for religious instruction, and of the 36th clause, for aiding denominational schools out of the funds raised by the general rate, were carried by 15 to 11.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.—The *Staats Anzeiger* of Sunday, the 9th inst., contains the text of a law passed in this session, which will interest many of your readers:—"Male foreigners who may in our States desire to contract marriage with a female Prussian subject, or with a female foreigner, have, in addition to their fulfilment of all other requirements of the law, to prove, by a properly-attested certificate from the authorities of the place they come from, that they are, according to the laws of their country, competent to contract a marriage abroad, or have, in conformity with those laws, received a license to enter on the said marriage." The main object of this law is to protect Prussian women from the consequences of marrying foreigners, the legislation of whose respective countries may offer obstacles to their settlement there being recognised in case of the death or misfortune of the husband. This half of the case has respect chiefly to Germans, the second almost exclusively to English. Every summer and autumn for two years past I have observed in the ladies' corner of your columns a number of matrimonial advertisements, all commencing with—"At Duisburg, by the Rev. Mr. Krummacher." On inquiry, I ascertained, as I expected, that these couples consisted always of widowers marrying the sisters of their deceased wives. It is to prevent the continuation of this practice that the second half of this law is directed. The Prussian Government will not connive at British subjects making use of its territory and institutions for the infraction of British laws. The town of Duisburg owes its distinction as a Rhenish Gretna-green to the circumstance of its easy approachableness from England; while it is the only place in the Rhine provinces where the *Code Napoleon* is not still in force, which requires a six months' domicile previous to the celebration of the ceremony. The wedding traffic at Duisburg has hitherto been carried on according to a regularly organized plan, in which innkeepers, &c., there stood in close connexion with a society in London for the promotion or execution of such marriages.—*Times Correspondent at Berlin*.

Religious and Educational Intelligence.

THE BAPTIST ANNIVERSARIES.

In consequence of the appointment of Wednesday, the 26th, as a day of humiliation and prayer, changes in the arrangements of the services have been rendered necessary. The Annual Sermon will be omitted this year, and the Designation Service will be held on Wednesday evening, the 26th, at Bloomsbury Chapel, at half-past six, and not at Surrey Chapel, on Friday morning, as previously announced. The other services remain unaltered.

WEEKLY TRACT SOCIETY.

The Sixth Annual Meeting of this Society was held on Wednesday evening, at Freemasons'-hall, under the presidency of James Kershaw, Esq., M.P.

The Rev. Mr. Young having opened the proceedings with prayer, the CHAIRMAN, after some introductory remarks on the value of missionary societies in general, said: He cordially approved of the objects, and mode of operation, of the Weekly Tract Society, and most sincerely desired for it abundant success. The means employed he considered to be well adapted to secure the end which it was sought to accomplish—namely, the religious, moral, social, and intellectual advancement of the people, especially of the working classes. (Hear, hear.) He had read with peculiar pleasure many of the tracts of this society, and felt bound to say, that he had never before met with

publications which, in his opinion, were so well adapted to bring about the result for which they were designed. (Cheers.) It was especially necessary, at the present time, and in a city like London, that there should be a very extensive circulation of good, healthy, moral, and Christian literature, suitable to the middle and working classes of the community, with a view, if possible, to neutralise the effect of the foolish and vicious publications which, unhappily, were being issued from the press in such fearful abundance. (Hear, hear.) Rightly viewed, indeed, it would be plain, beyond a doubt, that an imperative duty devolved upon the Christian people of the land, to see to it that every possible effort is put forth for the promotion of this object. It was a duty which could only be neglected by the Christian Church at its peril, because while Christian people remained inactive, thousands of immortal souls were perishing around them for lack of that knowledge which, if received into the heart, would be effectual unto their eternal salvation. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. W. H. ELLIOT, the secretary, read a lengthened report of the operations of the society during the past year, from which it appeared that 520,000 tracts had been gratuitously circulated, and 160,000 sold at cost price, making a total of 680,000 publications, each one embodying the essential truths of the Gospel of Christ. This, the committee were happy to report, was a considerable advancement upon the issues of the previous year; but, at the same time, they could see no reason why the number might not be immediately increased to at least 20,000 a-week, or double the present circulation. (Hear, hear.) It should be remembered, that this could be accomplished at but little additional expense. (Hear, hear.) The object, moreover, which the society had in view, unlike many, could be engaged in by all sections of the Church of God, seeing that nothing of an exclusive or sectarian character whatever attached either to the objects of the society or the modes of operation. Its simple design was to instruct a multitude of people, by means of a weekly tract, in the truths of the Gospel, who could not be reached by any other means than that of the press. Every Christian man must, of necessity, regard such an object with favour, and an earnest appeal was therefore made to the Christian public in general, to render all the aid in their power towards the support and enlargement of the association. The sum received during the past year was £668 5s. 5d., being £45 8s. more than the expenditure. There were bills, however, which would in a few days become due, and absorb this balance in hand; and, therefore, immediate and generous donations and subscriptions were very earnestly solicited.

B. SWALLOW, Esq., moved the adoption of the report and the appointment of the committee and officers for the year ensuing, which was seconded by the Rev. Mr. Ashby, B.A., who drew attention to the simplicity of the society's operations, as well as to its thoroughly Christian and unsectarian character.

The Rev. WILLIAM LEASK was then called upon to speak to the following sentiment:—"Man a Religious Being; Christianity the only system meeting the wants and supplying the need of his nature;" and was followed by the

Rev. C. H. SPURGEON, of New Park-street Chapel, who submitted the second sentiment:—"The Propagation of Christian Truth, next to the Possession of Personal Religion, the Great Duty of Professors of the Gospel."

The Rev. Dr. ARCHER spoke to the third sentiment:—"The Press—Periodical Literature an Effective and Powerful Agency for the Reclamation and Conversion of the Masses." The press in our country had altogether ceased to be what it once was. Instead of books being confined to the few, they were in everybody's hands, and it was absolutely necessary, therefore, that a different and more varied system should be pursued now to awaken the consciences of the people, and to inform their understandings, to that which was alone possible in former times. If a bad literature existed, it must be met by a good one. (Hear, hear.) For his own part, he would not imprison a single atheist, or call in the aid of the law to prevent any man teaching that which he might believe to be the truth; but would endeavour to put error to silence by a bold and fearless exhibition of the truth by means of the press; and it was because this society was doing its part to expose the pantheistic notions which a certain set of men were seeking to diffuse among the people, and to displace the immortal publications of the day, that he felt constrained to give it his most cordial advocacy, and commend it to the general and generous support of the Christian public of these kingdoms.

On the motion of JOHN CHURCHILL, Esq., seconded by Dr. OXLEY, a unanimous vote of thanks was presented to the Chairman, which having been briefly acknowledged, the proceedings terminated with the Doxology and Benediction.

THE REV. JOHN SPOONER of Attleboro', near Nuneaton, Warwickshire, has accepted the unanimous invitation of the church and congregation at Haddenham, Cambs.

SYDENHAM.—The Rev. T. C. Hine (late of Plymouth) has accepted an invitation to become the pastor of Park Chapel, Sydenham, Kent, recently opened by the London Congregational Chapel Building Society.

ABERGAVENNY.—The Rev. J. C. Butterworth, late of Kingstanley, Gloucestershire, has accepted the unanimous invitation of the Baptist Church meeting in Frogmore-street, and commenced his pastoral duties last Sunday.

WHITSTABLE, KENT.—At a tea-meeting held in Zion Chapel, Whitstable, the Rev. J. E. Toomer, of Wingham, in the chair, the Rev. D. Harrison was presented by Mr. W. Knight, in the name of the deacons and contributors, with an elegant silver tea-pot and milk

ewer, as a memento of his zealous pastoral labours in that sphere during a period of twenty years. The address was suitably acknowledged by Mr. Harrison, and the meeting was afterwards addressed by the Revs. H. J. Rook, of Faversham, T. Wilkinson (Wesleyan) of Whitstable, H. Carvell, of Canterbury, and D. Waller, of Wingham.

SUFFOLK CONGREGATIONAL UNION.—The half-yearly meeting of this Association was held at Clare, on the 10th and 11th inst. The "Introductory Sermon" was preached by the Rev. E. B. Hickman of Boxford, on Monday evening. The "Union Sermon" by the Rev. John Raven, of Ipswich, on Tuesday morning; and two addresses were delivered in the evening by Revs. John Gill, of Sudbury, and Henry Coleman, of Wickhambrook.

SUDBURY.—On the 13th inst. the foundation-stone of Sunday-school and class-rooms, in connexion with the Old Meeting House, Friars-street, was laid by Mr. Barker, the senior trustee, in the presence of a large assembly. Devotional engagements were conducted by Rev. W. Bentley, (Baptist), and an address was delivered by Rev. J. Gill, minister of the place. It is a gratifying circumstance that the entire estimated cost (£285) was raised before the contract was signed, three-fourths of the amount having been contributed during the last two months.

SIDBURY, DEVON.—The Rev. Charles Howell, after having been engaged in the ministry for upwards of forty-six years, more than thirty of which was exercised over the Independent Church at Alton, Hants, has felt constrained, in consequence of a severe illness, to resign his charge here, and to retire from active labour. This—while grateful that up to the time above referred to he had never had a silent Sabbath since he entered the ministry—he has done amidst the regrets of his church and people, as expressed in an address spontaneously drawn up and presented to him, after receiving the signatures of the greater number of members and subscribers connected with this church.

GRAVEN CHAPEL.—At a large meeting of the church and congregation, on Wednesday evening, the Rev. Dr. Leifchild announced that he felt himself unequal, at his advanced age, to the discharge, in a manner satisfactory to his own mind, of the duties of pastor to so numerous a charge. He should, therefore, take his leave of them on Tuesday, the 2nd of May next, when a valedictory service would be held, at which he expected the presence of the Rev. James Stratten, and other old and esteemed brother ministers, with whom it had been his happiness to be long associated. It is, we believe, in contemplation to entertain the venerable minister at a public dinner on the day mentioned, and to present to him a substantial memorial of the affection and esteem of his own people, and of the Christian public generally.

PUDSEY.—The Rev. T. Jowett has resigned the pastorate of the Independent church and congregation, after having sustained that relationship for a period of six years, and will shortly terminate his labours here. The members of the church, at their last meeting, having heard his fixed determination to do so, passed the following resolution, without one dissentient:—

That this meeting having heard the determination of their pastor, the Rev. T. Jowett, to tender at an early period his resignation, would express their deep regret that any such impediment to his usefulness should have existed, and would respectfully convey to him their expressions of the high appreciation which they entertain of his moral worth and efficient services during a pastorate of six years. And they would embrace this opportunity of recording their gratitude to Almighty God for the many tokens of Divine blessing which have followed his labours, as is manifest in the large accessions to the church and schools, and in various other departments; and they would further assure him that, wherever Providence may place him, he will be followed by their best wishes and ardent prayers for his future usefulness and happiness.

STAMFORD.—On Friday evening a public tea meeting was held in the Congregational school-room on the occasion of the first anniversary of the settlement of the Rev. B. O. Bendall as pastor. A numerous company enjoyed the hour of social intercourse; and to the public meeting an increased number assembled. The chair was taken by the minister, and the meeting was addressed by a staff of laymen on topics appropriate. The past year forms an important page in the history of the place; it has been signalized by the establishment of a Congregational Library, adapted to the working classes. A grant was obtained from the Tract Society, to which additions have been made. The books have been extensively circulated in the town. A public day-school has been opened, based on religious principles, supported by voluntary contributions, and a large number of children are in attendance. Efforts have been made to promote Congregational Psalmody by the introduction of a harmonium, and the adoption of the easy and devotional tunes of the Rev. J. Waite. Preparations are being made for a Fancy Bazaar, to provide a fund for the liquidation of the existing debt, which will be held next month.

HOME AND SCHOOL FOR THE SONS AND ORPHANS OF MISSIONARIES.—On Wednesday last, the annual examination of the pupils took place at the Institution, Nos. 1 and 2, Mornington-crescent; when the Rev. Joshua C. Harrison, of Park Chapel, presided. There were also present, the Rev. J. B. Brown, Rev. W. Tyler, N. Griffiths, Esq., George Tyler, Esq., Charles Reed, Esq., &c., besides a numerous party of ladies. The business was conducted by the Chairman and Mr. Lemon, B.A., the Principal of the School, and consisted of an examination in the Holy Scriptures, in Grecian, Roman, and English History, and the ordinary branches of a sound education; besides which, there had previously been a written examination in Latin, Junior Greek, Mathematics, embracing Euclid and the Elements of Algebra, and Arithmetic. The pupils gave satisfactory evidence of their careful training, and proved the value of the services which the teachers are rendering to the interesting objects of their charge. To the committee and friends of the institution, the progress of the chil-

dren and the state of the establishment is highly satisfactory. A bazaar will be held in the month of May, to raise funds for the purpose of erecting a more commodious building.

KENTISH-TOWN.—The public recognition of the Rev. J. Fleming, as pastor of the Congregational church, Kentish-town, took place on Thursday, the 6th, at 11 o'clock, a.m., at which hour a very numerous and respectable congregation had assembled. The Rev. J. Nunn read the Scriptures and offered prayer. The introductory discourse was delivered by the Rev. A. J. Morris, of Holloway. Mr. Spalding, on behalf of the deacons, having stated the circumstances under which Mr. Fleming settled amongst them, the Rev. J. Fleming, in reply to the Rev. J. C. Harrison, made a clear and satisfactory statement of the doctrines he had always made the great subject of his ministry, and of the plans by which he hoped, through the Divine blessing, to extend the knowledge of the Gospel in the sphere in which he had been called to labour. The Rev. T. W. Gittens having implored the Divine blessing on the union which had been recently formed—the Rev. T. Binney having been prevented by serious indisposition from fulfilling his engagement—the address to the pastor was delivered by the Rev. John Morison, D.D. The church and congregation were addressed by the Rev. J. Bennett, D.D.

NELSON-STREET, CAMBERWELL, RAGGED SCHOOLS.—At a public meeting of the friends and supporters of the Nelson-street Ragged Schools, Wyndham-road, Camberwell, held at Camberwell-hall, Grove-lane, the Duke of Argyll in the chair, Mr. T. Buxton, honorary secretary, read the report, which was unanimously agreed to; and after describing the locality of the schools, stated that in the school for children aged from two to eight, there had been 149 admitted, now in the books 89, and 60 had left. The girls' evening school had an average attendance of 45 in the winter and 20 in the summer; 60 were now on the books. A needlework class had been established for girls with good effect. The boys' evening school had an average attendance of from 30 to 70. There had been most favourable reports of boys who had been sent abroad and to situations at home. The attendance of children at the Sunday evening schools was about 250, and there was also an adult school, chiefly consisting of women. The report concluded by stating, that the whole proceedings had been satisfactory, but added, that although the yearly expenses were less than £180, yet the annual subscriptions did not exceed £110. Mr. Gurney, Mr. J. Payne, the Rev. J. Burnet, the Rev. Mr. Jenner, and other gentlemen, addressed the meeting, as did also Mr. W. Locke, honorary secretary to the Ragged School Union, who gave some interesting particulars of the successes of those boys who had been sent out as emigrants. After thanks to the chairman the meeting broke up, and a liberal collection was obtained at the doors.

BUCKINGHAM CHAPEL, CLIFTON.—On Monday, the 9th inst., a social tea-meeting was held at the above beautiful place of worship, to celebrate the extinction of the debt incurred in its erection. After tea, the Rev. R. Morris, the pastor, took the chair, and called upon Mr. Ashmead, who said it was just fourteen years ago since the idea of having a chapel in that locality first suggested itself. The honour of originating it belonged to a friend who was now in Australia, and but for whom it would not, in all probability, ever have been carried out. He referred to Mr. Hamley. Subsequently a committee was formed, but the thing was surrounded by so many obstacles that it was well nigh abandoned. At length they were inspired with new hopes by the noble offering of their friend Mr. Sherring, who promised a donation of £500 towards the building; other friends came forward with considerable sums, and in all about £1,500 was obtained. This, however, was but a small part of the cost, which was estimated at £4,000, but had reached nearer £5,000. But with this £1,500 it was resolved to commence building, and the foundation stone was laid in 1840. In June, 1847, it was opened for divine worship. Shortly afterwards it was resolved to form a church. The number at present in church fellowship with them was sixty. The next step was the selection of a pastor, and to that office, in 1849, their friend Mr. Morris was appointed. He should be glad to see a Sabbath-school established, as well as other spheres of usefulness in which their young friends might be engaged, and after what had been done he had not the slightest doubt that these things would also be accomplished. Mr. Lee also spoke of the difficulties with which the originators of the building had to contend, many obstacles being raised by those from whom they might have expected encouragement. Mr. J. C. Cummins, one of the building committee, expressed the pleasure he felt at the happy termination of their labours, and the hope that they would soon have a flourishing and useful church. The meeting was subsequently addressed by Messrs. J. H. Leonard, G. H. Leonard, Brown, Trapnell, and Nicholls, and the Rev. Mr. James. It was stated that, so lately as March last, offers were made for the purchase of the building; and that there still remained a ground-rent which the sum of £600 would clear off, and which it was hoped would be raised at some not far distant day, when the chapel would be perfectly free. The kindness of Mr. Pope, the architect, who had given the designs and specifications gratis, as well as that of Mr. Peto, M.P., who had given a donation of £200, was also acknowledged; with the exception of this £200, the whole of the expenses connected with the building of the chapel were defrayed by local contributions.

NOTTING-DALE SCHOOLS, KENSINGTON POTTERIES.—The annual meeting of these schools was held on Wednesday evening last, in the beautiful and lofty building recently erected by a few friends to the education of the poor, at a cost of £1,000. The right hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury took the chair, and, in an

eloquent and touching speech, described the necessity of affording the blessings of a sound religious education to the children of this and similar localities, and gave several interesting instances, occurring within his own knowledge, of the blessed results to the poor of such a training as was here afforded. A poor boy, educated in Bloomsbury school, had gone to sea and had been shipwrecked. The blessings of education, received in those schools, had enabled him to write an account of the catastrophe in language and pathos entitling him to be styled a second Daniel De Foe. His lordship concluded by saying, that the wretched locality in which they were assembled had been for a long time called the "Piggeries," since then it had been called the "Potteries;" he entreated them, by these and similar efforts, so to bless it, that it might in future deserve the name of Paradise. General Fox, a son of the late Lord Holland, described the efforts made thirty years ago, on this very spot, by his beloved sister, Lady Fox, and of the good resulting among the wretched population in her time. He said she expended no less a sum than fifteen hundred pounds in educational efforts here and in another locality of Holland-house. He wished success to the efforts now made, and promised an annual subscription. Mr. Churchill, the medical bookseller, then read the report. Among other very interesting facts, it stated that the whole cost of the building had been raised, and that it was now in trust for the children free of debt; that 200 children were on the books and in course of instruction; that the blessing of a good education was so well appreciated by the parents, that they sent their children constantly and punctually, except in wet weather, when the infants could not wade through the muddy roads around; that the building was used on the Lord's-day, not only for the religious instruction of the children, but a service for adults was conducted in the evening, when about 200 of the inhabitants of the Potteries attended; that the schools were in debt to the Treasurer £120 for the current expenses of conducting them, but that Mr. Cocks and another gentleman had given £30 towards that deficiency; and appealed to the meeting to raise funds by annual subscription to pay the salaries of the master and mistress, and the current expenses of the schools. Mr. Locke moved, and the Rev. Mr. Lewis seconded, the adoption of the Report. Mr. Cocks, the music publisher, moved the second resolution. He described the pleasing scene he had witnessed that afternoon at the public examination of the children over which he had presided, and described the marvellous proficiency they had made in Biblical knowledge especially. Mr. Counsellor Payne was introduced by Earl Shaftesbury to the meeting, as the champion of such efforts as we were met to support, and he gave one of his characteristic, humorous, and telling speeches. The collecting cards were then sent up, and produced no less a sum than between £60 and £70. The Earl of Shaftesbury presented a donation; and, thanks having been voted him, on the motion of G. Wilson, Esq., seconded by Charles Shepherd, Esq., and a donation announced of £10 from the West Middlesex Association, at its meeting held that day, his lordship returned thanks, and urged them to active efforts during the current year, in the hope that, when the next anniversary arrived, he should meet them with congratulations that, through their efforts, the Piggeries had become deserving to be called Paradise.—The number of persons attracted to the meeting was so large, that very many were unable to obtain admission to the building.

Correspondence.

THE SPIRITUAL CLAIMS OF AUSTRALIA.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

Melbourne, 25th Jan., 1854.

DEAR SIR,—I take the liberty of placing before you an important point connected with ecclesiastical matters. The anxiety and interest felt by many as to the character and class of men likely to occupy the pulpits of this colony, is increased by the apprehension that the churches in England are not sufficiently alive to the necessities of Victoria. We fear that many men who have been educated for the ministry, but whose efforts hitherto have been unsuccessful at home, are turning their thoughts towards Australia, with the vain hope that, though not acceptable in an English pulpit, the absence of *polish* in an Australian congregation will secure for them a better reception.

I should be unwilling to chill the hopes, or throw a stumbling-block in the way of any man of God; nevertheless, as I have ventured to write a few lines on a subject felt by all to be one of great delicacy, I feel constrained to deal faithfully in the matter. I know that I echo the sentiments of a majority of good men of all denominations in Victoria, when I say it will hold good as a general rule, that a man who has failed to gather a congregation in England is not likely to be more successful here—and for this reason, that the bulk of our congregations, whether as merchants, tradesmen, artisans, fathers of families, or young men, are men of energy and enterprise. I have not the folly to insinuate, that all are spiritless or supine who remain in England, but I think I am justified in assuming, that the act of emigration, in a thoughtful intelligent mind, implies some amount of enterprise. This temperament, sharpened in the colony by intercourse with kindred spirits, produces congregations of clear-headed, hard-thinking, warm-hearted men, who are able to give "the why and because" on most matters, and who, though they may lack the exterior politeness of a London congregation, will probably compare favourably with the most intelligent as to penetration and fervour of Christian affection. Four years since there were only three or four Congregational ministers in the colony—now we have twelve or fourteen, and yet there is room. But we want the right men, sound in

the faith, of enlarged views, cultivated minds, powerful preachers, combining suavity of manners with firmness of purpose; but, more than all, they must possess an aptitude for arresting the young men of this colony, whose name is Legion.

Oh! how many a yearning heart is oftentimes turned to the Weigh House, Westminster, Surrey Chapels! How often have I been entreated to bring the claims of the young men of Melbourne before the notice of the honoured pastors of the foregoing churches! How often have I heard it suggested, that the failing health of the Rev. S. Martin would be likely to rally in the warmer climes of Australia! How often have I been reminded, that men are ready to guarantee a liberal maintenance and warm reception to such men! I know all this right well, and rejoice that God has put it into the hearts of his servants here to feel so warmly on behalf of the young men of this colony; would that I had influence to use over some such honoured men, and the church over which they are placed in the Lord, to induce them to look at the state and claims of Melbourne, a city abounding with young men—many of them thinking, energetic, and Godly—away from home, kindred, and country; the future fathers, tradesmen, merchants, legislators of an empire yet in embryo.

To cite instances of the willingness of the people might savour of glorification, yet I deem it an honour to a Christian community to do as has been done here, when debts of £1,100, £1,900, £1,200, £1,300, have been cleared off at an evening meeting; and I record it to the honour of the grace of Christ, that I know men in Melbourne ready, each to give cheques for £500, or more, if needed, could the object dear to them be accomplished, viz., the obtaining of a powerful, painstaking, pious, enlightened, apostolic preacher, to catch and keep the young men of this city.

I remain, dear sir, yours faithfully,

J. F. SARGOOD.

THE DAY FOR PRAYER AND HUMILIATION.

A supplement to the *London Gazette* contains two Royal Proclamations, appointing Wednesday next a day of public prayer and humiliation. The first of these documents is as follows:—

VICTORIA R.—We, taking into our most serious consideration the just and necessary war in which we are engaged, and putting our trust in Almighty God that he will graciously bless our arms both by sea and land, have resolved, and do, by and with the advice of our Privy Council, hereby command, that a Public Day of Humiliation and Prayer be observed throughout those parts of our United Kingdom called England and Ireland, on Wednesday, the 26th day of April instant, that so both we and our people may humble ourselves before Almighty God, in order to obtain pardon of our sins, and in the most devout and solemn manner send up our prayers and supplications to the Divine Majesty, for imploring His blessing and assistance on our arms for the restoration of peace to us and our dominions. And we do strictly charge and command that the said day be reverently and devoutly observed by all our loving subjects in England and Ireland, as they tender the favour of Almighty God, and would avoid His wrath and indignation: And, for the better and more orderly solemnising the same, we have given directions to the most reverend the archbishops and the right reverend the bishops of England and Ireland to compose a form of prayer suitable to this occasion, to be used in all churches, chapels, and places of public worship, and to take care the same be timely dispersed throughout their respective dioceses.

Given at our Court at Windsor, this fifteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, and in the seventeenth year of our reign.

God save the Queen.

The second is like unto it; but, being for Presbyterian Scotland, omits the clause relating to the episcopal preparation of a prayer.

As the Edinburgh sacramental fast falls on the 27th, steps were taken to alter the national fast-day so far as Scotland is concerned to the 26th. This not succeeding, it is probable that the sacramental fast-day will be altered to the 26th.

Continual difficulties arise in our transition from the practice of intra-mural to that of extra-mural interment. On Saturday, a deputation from the parish of Lambeth waited upon the Directors of the South-Western Railway Company, to ascertain if it was true that they had let nine of the arches of the railway, in the most crowded part of the parish—namely, between the Waterloo Station and the Westminster-road—as depositories for the dead of as many parishes and unions as the Necropolis Cemetery Company have entered into contracts with to convey their dead to Woking. The Directors admitted the fact, and expressed regret that the Necropolis Cemetery Company had a power in their Act to convey bodies from the Waterloo-road station. In order to relieve themselves from the annoyance of bodies being conveyed from the terminus, they had made arrangements to let a siding of their line, from York-street to the Westminster-road—viz., nine arches. It was urged by the deputation, that the Directors, by such a proceeding, would not only destroy the property adjacent to the railway, but that their own transit of passengers would be materially affected, if it were known that they would have to pass over dead bodies, infected with all sorts of diseases, and emitting an effluvia which must, of necessity, reach the line. The deputation added, that, seeing that the Directors had made their arrangements with the Necropolis Company with no other view than that of profit, they should feel it their duty to forthwith apply to Lord Palmerston. The proposed entrance to this depository of the dead is to be opposite to Mr. Harvey's premises in the Westminster-road.

Foreign and Colonial News.

OUR COMMANDERS IN PARIS—REVIEW OF TROOPS.

The distinguished personages of whose arrival in Paris our readers have been already apprised, dined on Tuesday with their Imperial Majesties. After the breaking up of the party, the Duke of Cambridge and Lord Raglan, accompanied by their aides-de-camp, proceeded to the Opéra Comique, where they occupied the Emperor's box. The Royal Duke wore the Order of the Garter, and the General the Order of the Bath, but the whole party were in plain clothes. Their presence appeared to be unknown, except to a few English who happened to witness their arrival.

On Wednesday, the grand review in honour of the Duke took place in the Champ de Mars. The total of the force under arms might be about 25,000 men. Almost as soon as the Empress had taken her seat in the State compartment of the Grand Stand, the Emperor and the Duke of Cambridge, followed by a brilliant and numerous staff, were seen galloping across the bridge of Jena towards the field. On arriving on the ground, however, the Emperor immediately checked the pace; and, although it was raining hard, proceeded in a most business-like way to review the front of the infantry line at a walk. The Duke of Cambridge rode about half a neck behind him, and the mathematical precision with which this exact distance was kept throughout the day, showed the two royal equestrians to be perfect masters of their noble horses. The duke's scarlet uniform and white plume was an unerring guide to the position of the Emperor, who, in the less conspicuous attire of a French General of Division, would not otherwise have been always distinguishable from the crowd of officers about him. When the Emperor had reached the upper end of the infantry line he turned, and at the same slow pace proceeded along the rear of the front rank, to the surprise of many of the spectators, who were not prepared for this minute inspection. But, not content with this, and determined to give the English officers the fullest opportunity for criticism, he again turned, rode along the front of the rear rank, and then descended again by their rear, thus traversing the infantry line four times. Instead of a review, it was a searching inspection, such as a colonel would make of his own regiment on its private parade. The cavalry was afterwards inspected with nearly equal minuteness. One of the cavalry regiments played "God save the Queen" as the reviewing party passed by. The inspection over, the Emperor led the way to the front of the Grand Stand, where he and the Duke of Cambridge saluted the Empress. In a few minutes the firing past commenced. All the regiments marched exceedingly well, and, being stimulated by the presence of the English officers, with greater precision than usual. When the firing past was finished, it was thought that the review was over, and a momentary disappointment was felt, because no manoeuvres had been executed. This disappointment was of short duration, for although the *défilé* is usually the conclusion of a review, it was not so to-day. Either by a preconcerted arrangement, or in consequence of a request from the Duke of Cambridge, or a sudden thought of the Emperor, a brilliant charge of cavalry was reserved for a *bonne bouche*. A few minutes after the firing past had concluded, the entire force of cavalry in the field appeared, as if by magic, in a single line at the furthest extremity. The word was given to charge, and they rushed forward along the whole breadth of the Champ de Mars, towards the opposite side, of which the Grand Stand is the centre. As the formidable line came rushing on to within a few yards of the Emperor, the staff, and the spectators, people rapidly reviewed in their minds a question much debated of late, whether cavalry would stop of themselves rather than go through a material obstruction. However, at the word "halt," enforced, it is true, with great and apparently anxious energy by officers commanding squadrons, the imposing line drew up, still in line, within a few feet of the Emperor's horse. This brilliant conclusion of the day was a signal for deafening cheers from the tribunes. Lord Raglan during the day rode among the French general officers, a good way behind the Emperor. Marshal St. Arnaud and Marshal Vaillant, the Minister at War, were immediately next to the Emperor and the Duke of Cambridge.

In the evening the Duke of Cambridge, General Lord Raglan, and the other distinguished military visitors, dined at the palace. After dinner the whole of the guests proceeded to the Grand Opera, to witness the representation of the *Vestale*, and the ballet of *Jovita*. On entering the Imperial box they were received with warm demonstrations of popular favour. During the evening, the English national air, "God save the Queen," was performed by the orchestra, the audience standing uncovered. At its termination the theatre resounded with cries for its repetition, mingled with "Vivent les Anglais!" and "Vive l'Empereur!"

On Thursday there was a grand dinner at the British embassy, in honour of the Duke of Cambridge. Covers were laid for thirty-six guests. All the military authorities were invited. This being the first day of Longchamps, a great crowd of fashionables assembled in the Champs Elysées and the Bois de Boulogne. The Duke of Cambridge drove out with Lady Cowley. His Royal Highness was received with great demonstrations of respect and welcome.

THE PRUSSIAN PARLIAMENT AND THE CZAR.

The second Chamber at Berlin has been the scene a rhetorical display of more immediate interest than importance. The speeches of MM. Holweg and Vincke created a great sensation in the Chamber, and have attracted universal attention.

It will be recollected that the demand of the Prussian Ministry for an extraordinary credit to meet the expenses of an augmentation in the military estab-

lishment of the country, was some time ago referred to a select committee. Their report, although favourable to the Ministerial project, stated, in no ambiguous terms, the conditions upon which alone it ought to receive the sanction of the Legislature. The committee took occasion to express their confidence that the Government would steadily adhere to its former policy, and would labour—in accordance with the Cabinets of Vienna, Paris, and London, and in intimate union with the German States generally—for the speedy restoration of peace on the basis laid down in the Vienna protocols, while reserving entire freedom of decision with respect to the expediency of active interference. The Ministers, however, determined on obtaining the supplies which they required without the restriction suggested by the committee, and they have succeeded in their object. M. de Vincke, the Leader of the Left, going still further than the framers of the report, proposed that the grant should not be conceded without an express guarantee that no portion of the resources thus placed at the disposal of the Executive should be employed in the favour of Russia; but only a few members of the extreme Left were prepared to confine the discretion of Ministers within such narrow limits, and to incur the risk of a Ministerial crisis. The resolution was consequently negatived by a large majority; and modifications subsequently proposed by M. d'Auerswald shared the same fate—in consequence, it is stated, of a temporary coalition between opposite classes of objectors. The Ministers and their adherents rested their resistance to the proposed restrictions on principles which would hardly be tolerated in a country accustomed to constitutional Government. M. Manteuffel (brother of the Premier) denied the right of the Chamber to judge of the foreign policy of the Government at all. The army would give its blood without making conditions: let them imitate its example. M. Bethman Holweg, leader of the old Prussian party, said:—

Russia is striving for the government of the world. She must be reduced to reason, and it is especially Prussia's business to do it. The sentiment of royal relationship is a very respectable one, but State policy ought not to follow sentiment. Russia is under great obligation to Prussia, and she repays us by closing her frontier to our commerce, and treating our State with contempt. The Russian party among us, having failed to engage us in an alliance with Russia, now stands up for neutrality; as if Prussia could remain neutral in the midst of combatants. Prussia has but one part to take—she must join the Western Powers, or rather Europe, to sustain the right. (Prolonged applause.) I am delighted to hear that a good understanding is established with Austria. But why not state the grounds of this agreement? Prussia hesitates always. Woe to the country if in this case it decides only at the moment of danger, and when it is too late. I trust, gentlemen, with confidence, not in equivocal words, nor in men who bend with the willow in the wind, but in the irresistible current of events.

M. Vincke drew an obvious contrast between the characters of Nicholas and Frederick William;—

We are told to have confidence in the Emperor of Russia. I for one greatly respect that sovereign. He always knows his own mind, and has a will of his own. Since his accession he has never been swayed by romantic sentiments or considerations of kinsmanship. (Great sensation.) He only looks to the greatness and renown of his country, offering in that respect a contrast to his royal brethren. (Increased sensation.) He wants "the keys of his house," as Peter the Great said. If I were a Russian I should not blame him. But, gentlemen, we are Prussians. (Loud applause.) If he gets those "keys," he is master of the continent. If you are a Power of Europe, you ought to oppose these projects to the uttermost; if you are not, there is the greater reason to attach yourself to those who will defend your weakness—(prolonged sensation.) For, gentlemen, who does not see that, in connexion with the most important European interests, interests peculiarly Prussian, are identified? *Tua res agitur, paries cum proximus ardet.* Russia is the most powerful neighbour of Prussia, and her territory touches upon ours. Russia has long coveted our eastern possessions, and in the meantime, she cuts the veins of our commerce. Russia was against us in the war of seven years. In 1813 she wanted the oath of allegiance to be taken to her in the eastern provinces. In 1850 she threatened us with war. It is known that an influential party in Russia wants to have the Vistula for frontier. Remember the saying of Frederick the Great—"If the Russians get to Constantinople in a week afterwards they will be at Königsberg." (Great sensation and applause.) The ties of relationship are talked of, but I have too high an idea of our monarch to admit that he can sacrifice the interests of the country to considerations which have never impeded the Emperor of Russia. Religion is introduced by comparing the Czar to Godfrey de Bouillon, and the present war with the Crusades. That might have a certain weight with the credulous before the revelations of the Anglo-Russian correspondence; but now all the world knows that the only point in question is the succession of the "sick man." (Shouts of laughter and applause.) Besides, gentlemen, who is ignorant of the persecutions to which Dissenters and the Catholic and Evangelical religions in Russia are the object? Imprisonment and Siberia await the Christian missionaries. It is the most cruel intolerance formed into a system. The Czar has merged into the Emperor, and the Russian Church is the bureaucracy of souls. (Prolonged sensation.) Others have placed Russia in opposition to revolution, while it is she herself who has always excited revolution in neighbouring countries—in Poland, in Sweden, as at this moment in Turkey. Besides, Russia has had her own revolutions. In order to constitute a revolution, it is not necessary that kings should be killed in open day, or by the guillotine. To represent Russia as the natural bulwark against revolution, is to adopt a sophistry of the specific party. (A laugh.) It is not the inspiration of good sense. Russia has been called the most ancient ally of Prussia. That is not so. We have more ancient alliances with England, with France, and with Turkey herself. And how has this ancient ally treated us? In 1807 he profited by our misfortunes to appropriate to himself a province. In 1815 he prevented Alsatia from being again united to Germany. In 1829 he wished to give the Bourbons the right bank of the Rhine, and to obtain Constantinople in exchange. In

1850 he tried to induce England to declare war against us, and if England, full of honour, as at present, refused to do so, it was not the fault of our ancient ally (great applause), who, in the revealed correspondence, did not even mention Prussia. And then, gentlemen, can we forget the conferences of Warsaw, which broke the heart of the man (the Count von Brandenburg) whose place is occupied by the present President of the Council? (Prolonged sensation.) The true policy of Prussia, therefore, ought to tend to emancipate us from Russia. If the Government, before Russia crossed the Pruth, had declared against her, we should have had peace at this moment. Protocols are no longer of use. A great Power ought to co-operate in the execution of that which she considers to be based upon right. Instead of this, Prussia makes herself the postman of Europe (continued laughter), carries propositions of peace right and left, asks Austria what she intends to do, and finishes by guaranteeing to that Power her Italian possessions by prolonging the treaty of the 15th of May, 1851. The State of Frederick can do without Austrian direction. (Hear.)

The orator then discussed the question of credit, reviewed the past conduct of the Government, the union of 1849 and Schleswig-Holstein, and concluded by declaring:—"I cannot vote the thirty millions until the State shall be bound by a formal treaty to the Western Powers." (Applause.)

On the 11th, the magistracy of Berlin sent in to the Prince of Prussia an address of congratulation on his birthday. The Prince returned the following reply:—"The sentiments which I find in your address have rejoiced me, and I express my sincere thanks for these proofs of attachment. May I still further be successful by counsel and deed in cementing ever more and more firmly that confidence between King and people which has so powerfully contributed to raise up anew, with fresh greatness and strength, our native country from amidst the storms of the times. Then we shall also succeed in coming forth victorious, after fighting for right, in case war cannot be kept aloof from our dear fatherland."

STATE OF ITALY.

The official journals of the Austrian Government in Italy betray great disquietude, and break out—particularly the *Venice Gazette*—into unprovoked and indecorous insinuations against the Piedmontese, French, and English Governments. The *Venice Gazette* declares that "Austria will only draw the sword to re-establish order wherever it may be disturbed. Austria knows that in Italy it has a turbulent neighbour (*vicino turbolento*); a Government which lives under the tyranny of emigrants. But neither the licentiousness of the press, nor the culpable follies of men in office, can disturb the calm dignity of Austria; it knows all, sees all, and 'bides its time.'" After repeating no less than three times the hackneyed phrase, that Austria will maintain "an armed neutrality," and protesting that nothing can drive it from this neutrality but disturbances in Italy, the gazetteer adds:—"If—to adopt a hypothesis which the illusions of the emigrants do not permit us to disregard—France and England should lend assistance to aggressive movements on the part of the emigrants collected in Piedmont, then the conduct of Austria will be prompt and decisive; it will anticipate the attack of the hostile league. The sub-Alpine plains are but too celebrated for the facilities they afford to military operations."

The *Corriere Mercantile* of Genoa states, that a few days before the murder of the Duke of Parma he narrowly escaped being poisoned. He was very fond of a peculiar dish which was not generally relished by others, and that dish was daily prepared for him alone. But one day he happened not to touch it, and his aide-de-camp, Count Tedeschi, took some, whereupon he was suddenly seized with violent pains in the bowels. Medical aid was called in, and he was treated as if he had been poisoned with verdigris. The same paper says that the Duchess has limited her civil list to 500,000*fr.*, and the Duke of Modena and the Arch-duke Maximilian have offered her a sufficient sum to meet the most pressing exigencies. Baron Ward is said to have been arrested at Verona.

A letter from Milan mentions a number of eminent persons who have been superseded in the post of Chamberlain. They have been dismissed, it appears, for not going two years ago to congratulate the Emperor on his arrival in Italy. The other Chamberlains are to be invited to Vienna, for the marriage of the Emperor, on condition that they shall figure in the Imperial procession in gala carriages, drawn by six horses, and at their own expense.

A letter from Naples has the following:—"Again the authorities at the prison of Montefusco have imposed fresh cruelties on Poerio and his companions. A soldier pretends to have overheard the prisoners speaking disrespectfully of the Neapolitan Government. Orders were issued to have all the prisoners again chained to the wall. Poerio, however, for the moment has escaped, as the medical man of the prison declared he was not in a state to bear so severe a punishment. How much more humane if the King had ordered the execution of these unhappy men, when his judges condemned them to death. The protracted torture to which they are exposed is worthy of the worst tyrants of Rome. France, England, and other Christian countries accredit representatives to the Court of Naples—surely their united efforts might be used to prevent such outrages on the civilisation of the age. At all events, let us hope that something will be done for Italy, while we have a land and sea force which might give considerable weight to suggestions from England and France."

It is said that 600 political prisoners of the Roman States have succeeded in escaping from the Castle of Paliano.

The Papal Government has just given a fresh proof of its weakness, not to say of its subjection to the Austrian authority. Last year, Signor Aurelio Saffi travelled through Tuscany and the Romagna, without the police being able to discover any trace of his

presence. On returning to England, Saffi published a letter of thanks for the hospitality he had received, and for the secrecy observed with regard to his movements. Several persons were, of course, arrested on the strength of this publication, and brought to trial before an Austrian court-martial. Twenty of these persons have recently been condemned to death. A lady, the relative of one of them, went to Rome to implore the Pope to spare the lives of these unfortunate men. His Holiness promised that he would do his utmost to save their lives, and that he would, as he eventually did, write to Marshal Radetzky upon this subject. The Pope, therefore, is not at liberty to grant a favour to his own subjects, without the previous sanction of an Austrian marshal.

CONDITION OF HUNGARY—EXCITED STATE OF THE PEOPLE.

"Our Own Correspondent" of the *Daily News*, "sitting under the protection of Izet Pasha and a Turkish fortress," sends a record of his impressions during a recent tour in Magyar land. A portion of his letter is as follows:—"It is only a few months since I travelled in the land of bondage and the land of promise, and neither the banks of the Nile nor the deserts of Syria can offer a comparison of slavish tyranny with the present mal-administration of poor, conquered, wronged, bleeding, and wrathful Hungary. In those countries despotism is indeed the law, but the laziness and good nature of the officials, and their readiness to pocket small bribes, in some measure saves the inhabitants. But in Hungary there is a watchful dragon, a great goggle-eyed ogre of a police, an organised and vast army of the meanest and most bloodthirsty spies, that never sleep, that condescend to every trick, to the most dastardly meanness, to the foulest treachery, to the smoothest deceit, in order the more securely to entrap their victims. But, fortunately, the attention of the conquered kingdom Hungary is fully aroused. One sentiment of hatred, mistrust, of teeth-gnashing vengeance, of resolute waiting for the earliest and smallest opportunity, animates the whole Magyar population. If I should say that of the six millions of Magyars (there are six more of various races) ninety-nine in 100 of all classes are confirmed in their deep-seated hatred of their oppressors, I should fall short of the reality. In three months and more, I never saw ten, except the spies and officials, who were otherwise minded. Indeed, many of the officials are with the people. At Pesth I conversed with a master workman, who, trusting in my nationality, opened his heart. He said, nobody dared to trust any except his tried friends; and presently, he mysteriously pointed to a broad-framed man, stealing along in the shadow on the opposite side—'That's a rascally spyling' (Spilzt) said he. 'He was once on our side, and has betrayed hundreds to prison and death. He goes into all the hotels. But we all know him now.' I cannot help remarking with what astonishing quickness the Hungarians detect the presence of the vermin called spies. I have entered a room where two hundred people were assembled, and on the instant, in half a glance, it has been whispered in my ear, 'There are two that I wonder to see here; they may be invited to prevent suspicion—we must be very careful!' In a smaller company, I have seen one or more leave the room. On asking why—'There is one more than enough in that room.' In the country I was at a gentleman's house; two days after I left, and in his absence, the house was searched. It is common for a Hungarian nobleman, of the first rank and standing, to be ordered up at midnight and go round his own house, holding a light perhaps, or smoking his pipe, in slippers, while those foreign gentry turn everything upside down, open drawers, peep into secretaries, cut open bed clothes, take up the floor, to find letters, or papers, or proclamations from Kossuth. Meantime, the people gnash their teeth, detest their rulers, name their boys Lajos, and wait for the time. Wherever I saw any one distinguished for natural gifts, ability, education, or patriotism, he or she (for gentle ladies and high born dames are served the same way) was sure to have been imprisoned for three months to two or three years. Hundreds sit in hopeless prisons. 'Now, see,' said the Countess of — to me, 'this is what my niece did (showing two statuettes)—this is the angry fatherland, and this the weeping. See the hollow eyes. The tears are all run out; there are no more tears to shed. My niece, for teaching young girls to love their country, is imprisoned at —, 750 stairs above the ground.'

INDIA AND CHINA.

The overland mail reached London on Wednesday. The latest dates are—Bombay, March 14; Hongkong, February 25.

The *Delhi Gazette* reports that Dost Mahomed had sent an envoy to Major Edwardes, Commissioner of Peshawur, to beg that by-gones might be by-gones, and the past forgiven; and to declare his readiness to join England against the Russians, Persians, or any others. This report is neither authenticated nor contradicted, but it is held to "require confirmation."

The news from Burmah partakes of the usual character. This time the disturbances have broken out in the province of Bassein, hitherto tranquil. The story is, that two Burmese noblemen had raised the population at the northern extremity; that Major Fytche had marched against them with such forces as he could collect; and had found, fought, and defeated them, killing one of the chiefs in a hand-to-hand encounter. While he was absent, Bassein itself was threatened; but swiftly returning, Major Fytche also attacked and routed the dacoits, or "patriots," as the disaffected are now called. Other collisions between the troops and these dacoits are spoken of: in one encounter, two officers, Captain Geils and Lieutenant Grant, were wounded. But all was reported quiet at the date of the last advices; although "the army of Ava" is still maintained on a war footing.

Fighting has occurred between the Persians and the people at Abbas Bunder, a place in the Persian Gulf. The authorities at Muscat had sent assistance to Abbas.

Report speaks highly of the success of Dr. O'Shaughnessy in laying down the electric telegraph; and it was thought probable at Bombay that the line of communication between Calcutta and Loodiana would be completed before the mail reached England.

From China comes intelligence that the Russian Admiral on the Japanese station has succeeded in his negotiation for the opening of Japan to all nations. The Russian screw-steamer *Vostock*, 50, arrived on the 10th February at Shanghai with the intelligence. The Japanese will "open up," but require time to prepare. Commodore Perry, with the United States squadron, was again on his way to Japan. There is no news of the progress of the Chinese rebellion.

There were eleven British ships of war, great and small, on the Chinese station, and two French steamers. The Russian war-ships in the Chinese seas are the *Vostock*, *Pallas*, *Aurora*, *Navarin*, *Diana*, and *Niemen*.

THE UNITED STATES.

Among hundreds of memorials, petitions, and protests, laid before Congress, praying that body not to enact the Nebraska Bill into a law, there have been two of singular import, dignity, and influence. One was from the clergymen of New York city and its vicinity, embracing 150 influential names from almost all sects and denominations. The Episcopal Bishop of the New York diocese was the first signer. This petition was duly received. But a few days later, when a petition signed by 3,500 clergymen of New England was laid before the Senate, it was treated with the deepest indignity. Senator Douglass rose, and assaulted, in a passionate philippic, the whole body of the petitioners. The offensive portion of their memorial was in the following words:—

"The undersigned, clergymen of different religious denominations in New England, hereby, in the name of Almighty God, and in his presence, do solemnly protest against the passage of the Nebraska Bill, or any repeal or modification of existing legal prohibitions of slavery in that part of our national domain which it proposes to organize into the territory of Nebraska and Kansas."

"We protest against it as a great moral wrong; as a breach of faith, eminently injurious to the moral principles of the community, and subversive of all confidence in national engagements; as a measure full of danger to the peace, and even to the existence of our beloved Union, and exposing us to the righteous judgment of the Almighty."

General Sam Houston, of Texas, pronounced a most eloquent and well-merited tribute of respect to the petitioners, and added new laurels to the reputation he had already acquired by his powerful and uncompromising hostility to this measure. The country has read with the deepest regret a leading article in the *Washington Sentinel*, which is the official organ of the United States' Senate, in which the editor says that the memorial of this "piebald regiment of arrogant parsons" is a "high-handed measure. It is unpardonable, impious arrogance. Did Almighty God commission these men, as they intimate, to engage in this crusade against the Nebraska Bill?" All this appears in the official journal of the United States Senate!

In the House of Representatives at Washington, Mr. Campbell, of Ohio, introduced a resolution requesting the President to open negotiations with England, with the view of ascertaining upon what terms the latter Government would consent to the annexation of Canada to the United States! The resolution was rejected by a majority of 119 to 28.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Fourteen persons have been imprisoned or banished for threats of assassination against Santa Anna.

There are bad accounts from Oporto respecting the vines. Throughout the Douro district the disease has appeared in a very serious form.

Fifty miles of the Egyptian Railway has been opened for traffic: the last passengers from India travelled on it.

In the first three months of the year, 35 persons were killed and 141 wounded by railway "accidents" in the United States; and 376 people perished and 67 were hurt by steam-boat disasters.

The number of poor receiving public aid has decreased in Paris within the last twenty years. In 1830-'2 it was in the proportion of 1 to every 11.1 of the population; in 1851-'3 it was only 1 to 16.1.

Sir Joseph Paxton, Mr. Laing, M.P., and Sir Cusack Roney, who arrived in Paris on Friday, had an audience of the Emperor next morning, on the subject of the opening of the Crystal Palace at Sydenham.

Like the Dublin Crystal Palace, that at New York has been a failure. The shareholders have lost 170,000 dollars, or £34,000 sterling. The total cost of the Exhibition was 1,039,000 dollars, or £207,800 sterling.

The war—with other causes—has seriously affected commercial operations in Spain. The working of the mines, which was becoming very active, has been paralysed; railways and business generally have suffered.

Upwards of two hundred families have been rendered homeless by a fire at Birmingham, in the United States. By the wreck of the steamer, *Jacob D. Early*, on her voyage from New Orleans to the Wabash river, forty lives have been lost.

A letter from Nice, of the 11th, states that, by order of the Piedmontese Government, the Duke de Valentinois has been set at liberty, and the option allowed him either to return to Monaco by sea, or to France by land. He has selected the latter course.

The Custom-house officers of Biberich, in Nassau, have arrested two out of three men who had collected twenty-one young girls, and were conveying them down the Rhine in a steamer in order to take them to New York for immoral objects. The girls have been restored to their homes.

John Mitchell, in his slavery-advocating *Citizen*, calls upon the Irish in America to "free" Canada

from the British yoke while the Mother-country is busy with Russia. The *New York Herald* declares there is an Abolitionist "conspiracy" in New York to effect this object.

It is positively stated, that on the demand of Mr. Soule, the Spanish Government, admitting that the Captain-General of Cuba had acted wrongly in the matter of the *Black Warrior*, at once made an ample apology, and granted an indemnity for the loss sustained by the ship's owners.

Her Britannic Majesty's sloop of war *Virago* has returned to Panama from the Gulf of San Miguel with Mr. Gisborne, and left again for the same place in search of the party of 21 Americans under Lieutenant Strain, who were still missing. Information has been received of the discovery of the murderers of the four men of the *Virago's* crew.

From a return made to the United States Senate it appears, that out of £235,900,000 of United States stock, stocks of individual States, town bonds, railway and canal shares and bonds, and similar securities, there is £36,865,000 held by foreigners—that is, mainly by the people of this country. But the *Times* says the total should be something like £45,000,000, for a number of the States made no returns respecting their "repudiated" debts and accumulated interest.

The greater part of the garrison of Paris was consigned on Friday. The only explanation given is, that a second edition of the "Hippodrome and Opera Comique Plot," had been discovered, and that an apprehension was entertained that some attempt might be made to surround the Emperor's carriage at the Long-champs promenade. A good many arrests have been made.

Tin is supposed by some persons as likely to become only second in importance to gold in Australian mining. In a recent number of the *Sydney Herald* there is a communication from the Reverend W. B. Clarke, writing of the subject in a sanguine manner, and mentioning places where tin has been already found. Mr. Clarke was first led to anticipate the presence of tin by observing rocks of tourmaline granite, the stone which yields tin in Cornwall.

The *Gotha Gazette* publishes the following singular communication:—"Several newspapers have circulated the report, that before long there will appear at St. Petersburg a secret correspondence, carried on without the knowledge of the English Government, between the Courts of England and Russia, and which would seriously compromise Prince Albert. We are authorised to announce respecting this correspondence, that the English Court awaits the publication of it with an interest so much the greater, inasmuch as, on the part of England, it is confined to the usual notifications of births," &c.

Lodging-houses for workmen have been or are in course of construction at Paris, Marseilles, and Mulhouse; and arrangements are in progress for the same purpose at Rouen, Lille, and other places. At the beginning of 1852, Louis Napoleon appropriated a credit of 10,000,000 francs to assist this object. The constructors receive a subvention from Government of one-third of the cost of the buildings, and agree to let the apartments at a fixed price. The accommodation already provided consists of 5,300 lodgings for unmarried and 800 for married workmen at Paris, 150 for unmarried men at Marseilles, and 300 for married couples at Mulhouse.

The Honourable Judge Anthony has been requested by all the bar and a jury at Newcastle, in Indiana, to resign his seat on the bench. The bar in a general address, and in individual speeches, told the Judge they must decline acting in any cause before him: one barrister avowed the high personal respect he entertained for the Judge as a gentleman and a tavern-keeper, but justice required him to say that he regarded the present incumbent of the bench as utterly unqualified for the place he occupied, and he hoped he would resign. Others favoured the Judge with their opinion of his "incapacity." He heard them with great nonchalance, and promised to "consider" the matter. Finally, a compromise was arranged—the Judge is not to go to Newcastle again, but to send a substitute.

Gold, it is said, has been found in Ceylon. The story is, that six sailors from Australia, navigating the ship *Faithful*, on arriving at Colombo, asked leave to go "prospecting." From "the features of the country" they were sure that gold existed. Having obtained leave, they went inland and washed some of the sand of the Maha Oya, at a spot about thirty-two miles along the Kandy road. Here they found gold. As it was half-suspected that they were hoaxing the Cingalese public, Mr. Macartney, the Superintendent of the Police, was sent to the spot; and he reported, that after washing two pans of earth, "very many minute particles of gold" were found. Some doubts are expressed as to the quantity likely to exist in the district; but gold spangles have really been found.

The population of Paris are decidedly taking a devotional turn. The ceremonies of the Holy Week, and in particular of this day of religious solemnity, fill the churches from the earliest hour of the morning till a late hour at night. Those places of worship where the greatest multitude is attracted by the eloquence of the preachers are Notre Dame, St. Sulpice, St. Louis d'Antin, and the Madeleine. The Pere La Vigne, a Jesuit, whose lectures are delivered at St. Sulpice, and attract the greatest audiences, has had great success during the present Lent, and the effect may be best appreciated by the fact of many shopkeepers forming the resolution, and as yet observing it, of keeping their shops closed on Sundays.—*Times*.

The West India Mail has arrived by the *La Plata*. At St. Thomas all healthy. At Jamaica there was a great want of shipping; cargoes were all ready, but no tonnage to take them away. Commodore Anderson had received despatches from the exploring expedition on the *Itabana* of Darien, which state, that the

American party from the United States aloop, *Oyane*, had not been seen or heard of, and there was every reason to believe they had been murdered by the Indians. The House of Assembly was as unpopular as ever. Cholera had almost disappeared. Want of rain was much felt in the island. The Carlisle estate had been destroyed by fire.

At Milwaukee, United States, a runaway slave who had been captured by his master has been rescued by the people. Not a man, out of a city of 30,000 inhabitants, could be found to assist the officers. The military had been ordered by the marshal to be in readiness, but they were not called out. The impression prevailed unanimously, that, if called out, they would fire into the officers before they would into the citizens—for they were part and parcel of an indignant community. The jail was smashed in—the negro brought out, placed in a wagon in readiness, and, under an escort of hundreds of men, conveyed to a place of safety.

A letter from Orebro, in Sweden, of the 30th ult., says:—"The most handsome and richest part of our town has just been destroyed by fire. The fire broke out in a wool-store in Storbroen-street, and the flames, fanned by a violent north wind, spread with such rapidity that the street, which is very long, and all those lying between it and the Respalagergaaden-street, which runs parallel, were nothing but a vast sea of fire. The firemen displayed prodigious courage; but all their efforts failed. Eleven of them perished. The fire did not cease until after it had destroyed all within its reach, with the exception of the Hotel de ville and two other edifices, which were preserved owing to the extreme thickness of the walls. The fire raged for fifty-one hours, and it cannot yet be considered entirely extinguished, for in many places it is still smouldering beneath the ashes. About 1,300 persons, one-third of the entire population, are without houses, and the damage done is very considerable. Only a small portion of the houses destroyed were insured. The fire is the third one of importance which has taken place in Sweden in the month of March. On the 5th, a large part of the town of Warberg, and on the 11th, a still larger part of that of Isenkeopping, were destroyed by fire."

AUSTRALIA.

THE NONCONFORMIST AND ITS NAME—THE NEW GOVERNOR OF VICTORIA—THE NEW CONSTITUTION—DEPENDENCES OF THE COLONY—SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE COLONY—RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS, &c.

Melbourne, January 27th, 1854.

DEAR SIR,—It is now some months since last I addressed you, and in the mean time you have been discussing a question, the issue of which might have made the heading of this letter inappropriate. I have not yet had an opportunity of reading all that has been printed touching the contemplated change of the name of your paper, nor the reasons which have finally induced you (as I understand) to retain its present designation, but I must confess that my attachment to the very name is such, that they must have been most potent considerations which would have reconciled me to the adoption of any other. Not that I should have suspected you of any change of principles, or diminution of earnestness, coincidently with the change of name, but that I do like its clear and unambiguous character. I have therefore great pleasure in resuming my pen to address the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

Politics here have been very much at a stand still, though several questions of great interest have been mooted; but the question of Who is to be the future Governor? is felt to be of paramount importance. It seems strange, that as Mr. Latrobe's retirement from the colony has been so long known, nothing has transpired as to his probable successor. Rumours have been abundant, and many persons have been named on "good intelligence," but to this day we are as far from any accurate knowledge as we were months since. Amongst the persons most confidently named, have been Sir William Dennison, of Van Diemen's Land, Lord Marcus Hill, and Mr. Deas Thompson, of New South Wales. The former, I am convinced, would be most unpopular, from his connexion with, and support of, transportation, and the strenuous opposition he has shown to the efforts made to procure its cessation. He would appear to be a man of considerable ability, and in a new sphere, where the subject of transportation and conviction had no place, would probably be hailed as an acquisition. But here, where the people have suffered so much from the "peculiar institution" which he has delighted to uphold, and where so many struggles have been had with the monster grievance which he has so chivalrously defended to the last, and in which he has been finally so signally defeated, he would come to his work with strong personal prejudices against him.

I cannot believe that our enlightened Colonial Secretary will be so rash as to risk the peace and loyalty of this important province by such an appointment. Of the other two named—the one is known only as a subordinate in a former Whig Administration, and the other as a clever Colonial Secretary. To a man of a large and liberal mind, with statesmanlike views, here is an opportunity of displaying his talents which he might well covet.

The session of the Legislative Council, now almost brought to a close, has been occupied with the draft of a new constitution, to be submitted to Parliament for confirmation or enactment. Hitherto the work has been chiefly in committee, and a series of resolutions, and a bill founded thereupon, have been before the Council

for some weeks. The general complexion of the scheme is decidedly plutocratic, though some few popular details are embodied. I must refer you to the papers accompanying this for particulars. The interest taken in this subject by the people generally would seem to be very small, by the absence of all public discussion of the measure, except in the columns of the papers. Even in them there has not been any noticeable comments in the form of letters, but its handling has been left entirely to the editorial leaders. This does not bode well for the future progress of the colony in sound political freedom. A people, indifferent to the character of its political institutions is not likely to be very greatly cared for by its guardians and governors.

The excitement of money getting, and the anticipation of "going home," almost entirely supplant the emotions of patriotism. Indeed, any feelings of that kind can hardly be looked for as long as the colony is looked upon as a mere resting-place, to be put up with for a few years for the sake of the wealth to be secured, and which is to be transferred to the mother-country with all possible speed as soon as sufficient has been accumulated to satisfy the ambition of the possessor.

Recent advices from England, bringing intelligence of the actual commencement of hostilities between Russia and Turkey, and in which it is thought both England and France must be ultimately involved, have led to the discussion of our means of defence, in the event of our reported riches exciting the cupidity of either of the belligerents. By some it is thought not at all unlikely that France may play a treacherous game, and find occasion to break her alliance with England, in which case it is further supposed that, in anticipation of the actual estrangement, secret orders would be sent out to her forces in the Pacific to make a sudden descent on some part of these coasts. It is without doubt that she has gathered a suspiciously large force in the South Seas, and, by her occupation of New Caledonia, has placed herself in a position to act offensively on any of our Australasian possessions. Her movements in this part of the world may deserve to be carefully watched, and any evil from a surprise guarded against. As yet, nothing has been done or determined upon, though the subject has been ventilated in the Council and in the public prints.

The social condition of the colony is a subject in which numbers amongst you are deeply interested; some from their having friends and relatives here, and some from the uncertainty they feel whether to venture out here or not. In many respects the inconveniences incident to colonial life twelve months since have been ameliorated. Houses are more numerous and rents are falling; domestic servants are possible to be obtained, though at a remuneration which would startle your fair readers—many who are utterly unable to cook, or do anything more than mere manual labour, and that only under inspection, receiving from £30 to £40 per annum. The streets are being metalled and rendered passable, and the police are decidedly in an efficient state. "Sticking-up" is an amusement of rare occurrence, and people may now walk the streets of the city at any hour of the day or night with little more fear of molestation than in London. According to some statistics lately compiled by the Acting Chief Justice, the convictions for crime during the past year have been far less numerous than in the previous year; and in the character of the crimes committed a still greater improvement was evident. Drunkenness, though still a prevailing and characteristic vice, is not so rife as formerly, nor does it obtrude itself so palpably on public view. Strenuous efforts are being made to subdue it; and though some of these take a form of doubtful character, as in the attempt just commenced to procure the enactment of a "Maine Liquor Law," yet even this may co-operate, with other means, towards the desired result.

In religious affairs, if there is little that is very encouraging, there is, at least, progress. New churches are built, and what is better, paid for! The public ministrations are maintained with pecuniary vigour, even if not characterised by much mental strength; and, in most cases, very full and satisfactory congregations assemble.

Public amusements of a harmless character abound and are patronised, and there is an evident harmony between an improved catering for the public taste and that taste itself. On the whole, the disturbance caused by the gold discoveries, and the inroad of so many thousands without adequate accommodation for their reception, are passing away, and society is settling down into its normal state. Labour is still in demand, and is well remunerated; and if better provision were made for the settlement of the people on the land, affairs would be looking decidedly hopeful. But that is too large a question to touch thus incidentally at the far end of a letter. I had intended to have reported some particulars of a denominational character, but have left myself without time and space; and must defer it. W. C.

Counterfeit shillings of a new sort are abroad. The metal is composed of copper, nickel, and zinc, and is very hard; the pieces are struck, not poured into a mould; then they are electroplated with silver. They are excellent imitations of good coin, but fortunately the ring is very bad. It is believed that they are manufactured at Birmingham.

IRELAND ON EITHER SIDE THE ATLANTIC.

At a time when threats of an Irish-American invasion of Canada reach us from beyond the Atlantic, it is amusing to observe the opinions entertained in this country of the hero of the would-be Hibernian filibuster, Mr. John Mitchel. By the *Weekly Telegraph*, and the rest of the Roman Catholic press, Mr. Mitchel is held up as the leader of an infidel and red-republican party, against which the people of the old country are put upon their guard; while between him and the leading organ of all that remains of the Young Ireland party, the *Nation*, an interchange of mutual recriminations, which commenced shortly after Mitchel's escape from Van Diemen's Land, has led to the fiercest personal hostility. Mr. C. G. Duffy devotes a whole supplement of this week's *Nation* to a reply to Mitchel's attacks, and to a vindication of his own course, and the grounds of defence which he assumed in the State trials of 1848. In one of the concluding passages Mr. Duffy, addressing him, charges him thus with his breach of parole, and sums up his estimate of his (Mitchel's) character:—

In your career there is but one moment that can be recalled with unmixed satisfaction—your attitude in the dock. It might have saved your name; but, with that blind impatience which is ever your bane, you have forfeited it. You have blotted it out of the memory of men by the disgraceful breach of your parole. You have made, as far as in you lies, the word of an Irish gentleman of less value in the universe. You have prepared for future political prisoners utter distrust of their pledges. Do not presume, sir, to palter with the facts. A moment spent in a police office, where careful precautions were taken beforehand, by money and diplomacy, to make the proceeding a farce, was not a release from your parole. It is not so a gentleman fulfils his obligations; he is careful to be rather in excess than in deficiency in affairs of honour. M'Manus had been actually arrested, and was dispensed from responsibility; Meagher took his chance of genuine armed enemies; but till it be considered the legitimate winning of a race to drug the adversary's horse, or bribe his jockey, this transaction will give up your name to contumely and endless scorn.

Miss Martineau writes to the *New York Evening Post*:—"It is a curious thing, as I can testify, to enter Ireland with a headful of the talk of the Mitchels and Meaghers, and then to converse with the peasantry and their chosen friends, and hear them tell how, in the case of distressed poor-law unions, the Government has 'stood by the people,' and to see them point out scores of farms and estates, where the residents, old or new, are now rising in the world again, and employing all the labour in the neighbourhood. The agitators' names are mentioned with shame, or not at all; the obligations to England are more and more understood; and any declaration on 'the wrongs of Ireland' would now meet with a cold response, except from priests whose flocks have escaped, or from a handful of priest-ridden victims, who are denied education, and every blessing of good government that their church can intercept. Such alone are now the followers of the Meaghers and Mitchels: whether they deserve any better, you can judge as well as me."

The influence of the Irish in America, and the offices they hold under the Government, to the exclusion of native-born Americans, has called a new power into existence, which will be potential in its influence on all future elections, especially in cities. This power is a secret association, called the "Know-Nothings," entirely composed of Americans by birth, and recognising each other by signs and pass-words. Their objects are twofold—political and religious; one, the exclusion of foreigners from office; the other, war upon the Roman Catholic religion. In a word, the operations of affiliated societies of "Know-Nothings" will be mainly directed against the Irish and Catholic influence.

At home, the Irish "brigade" are employing the "strongest" language towards each other. Mr. G. H. Moore, M.P., writing against Mr. O'Flaherty says,—"It was in an evil hour I consented to have anything to do with an arrangement which was begun in fraud, prosecuted in evil faith, made the instrument of double dealing, and carried to its miserable and abortive conclusion with a reckless disregard to truth, which strikes me with consternation, knowing, even as I do, the source from which it proceeds. The only consolation which I derive from the wretched controversy in which it has involved me is, that it has freed me from the last link of contact with a political confederacy of which universal dishonesty is the common compact and perjury the vernacular of daily life."—Mr. J. Gore Jones, on the other side, is equally rich in compliments. "Of the felicity," he writes, "with which Mr. Moore deals with facts, calculated to place personal character on a level with his own, Captain Greene, Mr. John Sadleir, and Mr. Edmund O'Flaherty have given no very flattering examples; while the way in which Mr. Moore has responded to the charges of those gentlemen, but too clearly evinces that a tongue slanderously flippant, is but the pendulum to a heart miserably white. Such a man can only be confronted at every corner, and told he —!"

Happily, the people whose leaders are thus mutually destructive continue to grow in material prosperity. The contrast is very striking, indeed, says a writer in the *Northern Whig*, in the tone of our agricultural reports of twelve months ago, and those of the present period: then, all was despondency—no ploughing, no sowing, no tillage of any kind, in consequence of the continued torrents of rain flooding and rendering the land totally unfit for all husbandry operations. Now, happily, the case is essentially different; not only is ploughing everywhere completed, but the greater portion of grain sowing and potato planting is finished, under most auspicious circumstances. The breadth of ground under potatoes this season will be immense; and we can only reiterate our satisfaction, that our humble efforts to induce an extensive cultivation of flax have been eminently successful, in the county Down especially. We know several instances of

farmers in the Bainbridge district who had arranged to sow but two or three acres with flaxseed, but who have been so far influenced by our reasoning as to have increased their sowing to fourteen and fifteen acres. This is as it should be; for while, according to all present probability, grain is certain to rule at moderate prices next harvest, flax is as surely destined to command prices far beyond any hitherto realised in the Irish market. We should state that the fall noticed in the price of potatoes is likely still further to increase the planting of this esculent.

EXECUTION OF THREE RIBANDMEN.

To the numerous executions on which we remarked last week, another, and a triple one, has already been added, and one, the circumstances of which surpass all the rest in the loathing, indignation, and pity which they excite. The condemned were the three men, Quin, Grant, and Coomey, convicted of the murder of Mr. Bateson, a magistrate, in December last, and the place of execution, Monaghan. Quin is described as having formerly been of a daring, reckless turn of mind, and Grant of a "mild disposition," while Coomey was particularly conversant with the Scriptures, and the lives of the heads of his church; and was ever ready to discuss religious topics with those officers of the gaol who differed from him in religious opinions.

On the morning of the execution the prisoners were smoking, and seemed in the "best of spirits." Grant and Coomey spoke with a spirit and freedom which was astonishing, "looking at their approaching end as a merchant might be supposed to do on entering on a prosperous enterprise, which would reap for him rich and glorious results." The sub-sheriff called upon them in the morning, and, on going up to them, said he was sorry to see three men in their position. "Sorry!" said one of them in a tone of surprise, "why it is glad you should be, sir." He then asked them if they had any statement to make to him in relation to the offence for which they were to die. "No," said Coomey, "our Saviour said nothing when he was executed." The last rites of the Roman Catholic Church having been administered to them in the chapel of the gaol, by the Rev. Messrs. Hughes and Smith, the procession was formed to the press-room. Clothed in their dead dress, the two men passed through the yard, each in company with his spiritual adviser, and, during the time they were shaking hands with some of the officers of the prison, the Rev. Mr. Smith had passed some distance in advance of Quin, when the latter came skipping after him, like a school-girl, threw his arm round his neck, and drew him on, in a lightsome, hurried pace, for a short distance. Grant held his hands clasped, with his eyes fixed upon a little crucifix that was carried before him. Having arrived in the press-room, they knelt, and received absolution according to the Romish ritual, the unhappy men expressing their full belief that their sins were forgiven, and that they were about to experience the blessings of Heaven. They were then placed on a form and the executioner was called. As the executioner took Quin's left arm to pinion it, some one said, "Be steady." Quin exclaimed, "Oh, he is doing me the best job that ever was done in this world." His chaplain told him not to speak of that now. Quin said, "I return you many thanks for all your kindness; we commit ourselves, O Lord Jesus, to you. Jesus Christ receive us, God be merciful to us," &c. Grant was then also pinioned, betraying, in this operation, however, no apparent tremor or alarm. Quin said: "Hell cannot now scare us." When the hangman pinioned his arms. "He's doing the best job ever was done for us." To the rev. gentlemen, "We return you many thanks, gentlemen. Will you not give us your blessing before you go?" Both reverend gentlemen then blessed them; the Rev. Mr. Smith adding, "remember the penitent thief on the cross. In one moment you will be in heaven. You have eternal happiness within your reach."

As Quin was being moved to the drop by the executioner, his pastor said, "He that would have pardoned Judas himself, if he had asked for it, will pardon when you ask. Now you have eternal happiness in your Redeemer and Mary." Quin then kissed the crucifix, bade farewell to the chaplain, and exclaimed, "Mary, mother of God, have mercy on us," &c. Grant used similar expressions, and said to his clergyman, "Farewell to this world." The doors having been thrown open, and the unfortunate men having appeared, dressed in their shrouds, and having white caps on their heads, a murmuring wail arose throughout the entire crowd of the most agonising description. The bolts were then drawn instantly, and the men fell about eight feet. Grant died almost instantly, without a struggle. Quin, however, who had several times expressed his wish "to suffer more for his Saviour," did not die for fourteen minutes after he dropped. The priests, at this moment, stepped to the press-room door, and, putting their hands through the iron bars, immediately behind the drop, delivered a number of prayers in Latin. Quin, on his fall, struggled convulsively with his hands and feet, and his chest heaved repeatedly several minutes. At the earnest solicitation of the Rev. Mr. Hughes, who appeared in mental agony, as he looked down on the dying man, messages were repeatedly conveyed to the hangman that Quin was not dying, and the reply returned was that he was a strong man and that all did not die alike. The struggles eventually got weaker, the chest at last ceased to heave, and the wretched man was declared to have expired. It is said that Quin prayed, on the night before his death, that he might have a long death-struggle!

After the bodies had been cut down Coomey was brought from his cell, bearing a crucifix, and attended

by the Rev. Mr. Birmingham. The same ceremony as before having been performed by the clergy, who held in their hands the "Rituale Romanum," "Theological Moralia," and other books, the executioner proceeded to put the cord round Coomey's arms. As he did so, Mr. Hughes said, "Remember, he was nailed." Coomey said "Eh," with a strong, unfaltering voice. The expression was repeated. Coomey, putting his other arm behind him, as a man would who was being helped on with his great coat, said, "Oh, your reverence. I am quite content to go the journey I am going." He kept repeating to himself what were understood to be prayers, calling upon his "Saviour and Mary," the priest at the same time informing him that he would soon see both. The crucifix, which was held up before him, he kissed repeatedly, the priest saying, "Embrace the image of your Saviour again." The rope was then put round his neck, the doors were thrown open, and he walked firmly on the drop, praying to his Saviour for mercy, and calling for the assistance of "St. Joseph and Mary." The screaming of the females, some of whom fainted, on the third white figure appearing on the gallows, was heart-rending; and the lamentations of the masculine portion of the assemblage were, for the moment, more painful than any other incident in the terrible transaction. Coomey had not expressed, during the morning, any intention of speaking, and was at once launched into eternity, having died without a struggle.

Quin had a narrow escape with his life at the Armagh assize of 1840, when charged with the murder of Bryan M'Creish; and it appears that he only escaped, on that occasion, by one witness for the prosecution—an old man—in attempting to identify the murderer of M'Creish, putting the crier's wand on Mr. M'Cutcheon, of the Armagh gaol, instead of on Quin.

THE TESTIMONIAL TO MRS. STOWE.

The committee for promoting the tribute to Mrs. Stowe have at length the satisfaction of presenting to the subscribers a statement of the aggregate amount of the sums collected. On referring to the account of the places from which contributions have been remitted, the number is found to be upwards of 400, and the respective amounts range according to the following division:—

Sums under £1	have been received from 152 places.
" 5	" " 173 "
" 10	" " 33 "
Sums from 10 to £20	" " 23 "
" 20 30	" " 6 "
" 30 40	" " 1 "
" 40 50	" " 2 "
" 50 60	" " 1 "
" 60 70	" " 1 "
" 70 80	" " 1 "

One collection of £105, and another of £214, complete the amount; and it is interesting to remark, that it includes £5 from Jamaica, and £5 from Frankfurt, and that £10 have been collected in Barbadoes.

The debtor and creditor account published by the committee shows a total received (including bank interest), of £1,807 5s. 11d. Exactly £1,800 have been remitted to Mrs. Stowe; "a friend" undertaking to make up the balance of expenditure. An address, announcing the completion of the testimonial, has been acknowledged by Mrs. Stowe in the following letter:—

Dear Friends,—Permit me to acknowledge your letter, announcing the deposit of one thousand eight hundred pounds, subject to my order, as a testimony of the sympathies of the English people for the slave.

It is, to my mind, the more affecting and valuable from the circumstances you suggest—that is, that it consists of very small contributions from the middle and labouring classes.

Undoubtedly, while the whole English nation in all its parts, from the highest to the lowest, feels for the cause of liberty and humanity, as represented by the slave, the feeling nowhere exists with more vehemence than in the middle and working classes. I am aware of the alacrity with which, in the cottages of the poor, the mite has been given which has gone to make up this sum, and it is the more holy and precious in my eyes from that remembrance.

I trust that God in his mercy will remember the working classes of England for the kindness they have shown to these poor oppressed ones of America; great have been their burdens, great their sorrows, but they still have liberty remaining to them, and with liberty all else may be hoped in time. The contribution given from their poverty to the slave is a most affecting proof how different a thing is freedom, even when beset with many trials, from slavery.

It is, however, but justice to the nobility of England, to say, that while their names do not appear on this testimonial, it is not, therefore, to be concluded that they were unwilling to express by deeds what they have shown themselves willing to express in words.

Had not my health been so very precarious as to lead me to decline intimations which I received, and had I had in hand any definite project for the benefit of the slave, I have no doubt that considerable sums might have been placed in my hands from that source; but I invariably replied to all inquiries of the kind that my object was not to solicit money, though I should not decline to make the best use in my power of what came into my hands unsolicited.

Notwithstanding this, it may be proper to say, that liberal aid has been placed in my hands by some as noble in soul as in blood—an unsolicited offering to relieve the sorrows of the slave. I mention this as a simple act of justice.

The cause of freedom in our country, at present, would seem to be in its darkest hour. The object now seems to be to open all the territories of the Union to slavery, by repealing the Missouri Compromise.

We can only refer the future to that God whose ways are unsearchable; Him by whom actions are weighed, whose counsel shall stand, and who will do all His pleasure. "He will make the wrath of man to praise him, and the remainder thereof He will restrain."

Before this reaches you, this most important question will be decided, and the country will have passed through a most eventful crisis. What the result will be to our country is known to God alone; but that the cause of truth and right shall prevail, and slavery, with every other wrong, perish before the coming of the Lord, is a glorious certainty.

In this hope, I remain,
Yours very affectionately,
Andover, February 8th, 1854. H. B. STOWE.

THE RENEWAL OF THE STRIKES.

The threatened reduction of wages at Stockport has, unfortunately, resulted in a strike. Some thousands of the operatives ceased work on Thursday evening, the week's notice of reduction having expired. The police-force, consisting only of a chief constable and fourteen officers, besides twenty-six night watchmen, paid by private subscription, the magistrates immediately swore in, as special constables, all the corporation servants, including firemen, operatives at the gasworks and able-bodied street-sweepers, making an additional force of about 100 persons, and prohibited open-air meetings in the town. The operatives therefore met, on Good Friday, a short distance off.

The proceedings of the Preston Mediation Committee are still kept strictly private. The number of immigrants who have arrived by rail during the week is reported at ninety-nine, about seventy-four of whom are available for working, or learning to work. From twenty to thirty have been sent back to various localities. The number of old skilled hands returning to their employment is so variously estimated that it is impossible to give anything approaching to an accurate statement. Messrs. Horrockses, Miller, and Co., the largest employers in the town, have now 1,390 persons at work, and, it is said, receive daily accessions. Complaints are made of the course being pursued by the associated masters towards hands who have resumed work, but selected new employers. It is alleged that no sooner does a man or woman resume work at a fresh place, than their former employer, though he has not employed them for the last six months, insists on their return to his establishment, and the new master dismisses the new hand, who is thus compelled to return to his old master, turn unionist, or starve.

The total number of hands relieved last week by the Operatives' Union was 13,813, at a cost of £3,195 5s. 9d. Decrease in the number of hands receiving relief, 62; decrease in the amount paid, £21 4s. 6d. The balance-sheet of the power-loom weavers shows that the amount received this week from all sources, including £102 remaining over from last week, was £2,086 8s. 9d.; that their expenditure was £2,136 12s. 1d.; and that there is a balance due to the treasurer of £50 3s. 3d. At a recent meeting of weavers, one of the delegates stated that many persons—not less than 1,000, he believed—had imposed upon the committee, and obtained relief from their funds, although they had never worked in a mill for many years. This matter was about to be looked into (the speaker said), in order that the committee might try to raise the wages of those who had a legitimate claim upon them. (A voice here exclaimed, "That's what they should have done long since.") It was also announced that Blackburn, after sending £600 a-week for the last fortnight, had £250 in hand; Accrington and other places had also reserved funds, with the view of making up the usual amount for Easter week, when little work was done.

A petition to Parliament is now in course of signature by the factory operatives of Lancashire, alleging that "in many parts of the manufacturing districts the factory acts are systematically violated by masters, who work women and young persons in factories for a greater length of time than is permitted by law, and that the time of working permitted by law is too long, and contrary to the principles of the Ten Hours' Act, to which the honour of Parliament was, and still is, pledged." The petitioners pray that the hours of labour may be limited to ten the first five days of the week, and to seven and a-half on the Saturday, accompanied with a restriction of the moving power, as the only means of enforcing the law.

A strike of the Dumbarton joiners has been successful: instead of 24s. and 25s. a week, they will in future receive 26s. and 27s. The painters of Greenock have turned out for an advance of 2s. 6d. a week: the masters declare that they will not give it, as they now pay the Glasgow prices.

Liverpool has published an index to its literary tastes in the shape of a report on the reading and readers at its various Free Libraries for the first quarter of a year. Like the Manchester report, this has also special points of interest. It shows that the free readers of Liverpool are not wholly given over to light literature. The books most in demand are biographies and histories:—of these, 8,576 volumes have been issued in the quarter. Novels come next in the list:—of these, 4,203 volumes have been issued. When it is borne in mind that novels are generally in three volumes, it will appear that the excess of solid over amusing reading in the Liverpool libraries has been noticeably great. In miscellaneous literature, the issues have been 868,—in geography and travels, 579,—in poetry and drama, 254,—in theology, morality, and metaphysics, 218,—in natural history, 181. In commerce and political economy only 18 volumes have been called for in the great commercial port, the second city of the great economical county,—while in science and art there have been no less than 215 readers. This is a curious fact. Among the novels, those most sought for—as was to be expected in a seaport—have been nautical novels. Marryat has had more readers than Scott. Only one book has been lost. At present there are upwards of twelve hundred readers.

EXHIBITIONS AND ENTERTAINMENTS OF THE SEASON.

From the notices under this head two or three weeks since, there was accidentally omitted a paragraph relating to an institution of whose success we are heartily desirous—namely, the "Diorama for the Million," exhibited every evening, at the price of two-pence, by the Working Men's Educational Association, at its rooms in King William-street, Strand. The subjects of illustration are Nineveh, Egypt, Palestine, North American Indians, &c., and the lecturers are no less efficient than the artists. The manager, and principal lecturer, is the able and philanthropic W. B. Scott, Esq., who lately contested the City chamberlainship. The Rev. Mr. Ward has twice occupied the rostrum on American subjects, with great success. There is a morning (strictly, an afternoon) exhibition, which at present alternates Nineveh with Egypt; and to which the prices of admission are higher than to the evening exhibitions. To one or other, every one should go, especially the young and inquisitive; if not for entertainment or instruction, then for the encouragement of so good an enterprise.

Mr. Wyld's "Globe"—the seat of the proposed "Cosmos Institute"—continued, we are glad to find, one of the most attractive as well as the most instructive exhibitions of the metropolis. At a recent visit, we found some two hundred persons, of all ages and classes, listening with evident interest to the expositions of the lecturer; the benefit of whose discourse is much increased by its colloquial tone, and his permission of requests for further elucidation. The seat of war is, of course, a prominent topic—and we observed two privates of the Guards all "attention" to this part of the lecture. On the ground floor of the building may be inspected an admirable collection of maps, elucidatory of the same great subject;—and, an entertaining novelty, a sort of Esquimaux cabin, in which are disposed numerous specimens of Arctic productions.

At the "Gallery of Illustration"—14, Regent-street—the route of our forces, and the scene of warlike operations, may also be very agreeably studied. Among the new views is one of "the Dardanelles," sketched by Lieut. O'Reilly, of the *Retribution*.

Of several other similar entertainments, we have had an opportunity of visiting only that of Herr Reichardt—at the Bazaar, Baker-street, Portman-square; a Cyclorama of the Tyrol, Switzerland, and Italy. Herr Reichardt comes recommended by a long list of German artists and journalists; but, even without that letter of introduction, he would soon have gained for his exhibition London popularity. His enormous roll of canvass not only represents some of the finest scenery and most noted cities in the world, but conveys the effects of atmosphere, distance, and colouring, with a felicity that astonishes no less than it pleases. The exhibition is enlivened by the spirited performance of well-selected music; and the lecture is free from the usual demerit of superfluous talk.

THE HOLIDAYS.

Never was the cessation from business usual on Good Friday more generally observable in the metropolis than on Friday last. For the first time, the day was observed at the General Post-office in the same manner as Christmas-day.

In the morning, and still more in the afternoon, the railway stations and river steam-boat piers were thronged; immense numbers leaving for short excursions. The great attraction, however, appeared to be the Crystal Palace, at Sydenham, some hundreds going down the rail to view the progress of the building. There were a great many fresh omnibuses put on the Sydenham-road, and they all obtained an abundance of passengers. Windsor was crowded to excess. The new rail to Tilbury carried such an unexpected number, that no provision could be made for their conveyance back; and hundreds had to return by the old and dearer line, threatened not only with detention but with starvation at Gravesend.

On Sunday, there was a similar but more decorous eagerness on the part of the public to avail itself of means of conveyance from London; Windsor being especially favoured. But on Monday, all these signs of active holiday-making were redoubled. Favoured by a sunny day, throngs of holiday makers were seen in search of amusement, and railway-trains, steam-boats, and pleasure-vans reaped a fine harvest. All the gratuitous exhibitions were crowded; and those also at which payment is required, were, as a rule, well patronised. The parks were thronged, and so also were the Zoological Gardens. In the evening, the theatres were abundantly popular.

The Electric Telegraph Company have laid down a main of wires to the new Stock Exchange for the use of the members. The Stock Exchange will now have direct communication with all places reached by the electric wires, both on the continent and in the United Kingdom.

Postscript.

THE WAR.

A BATTLE NEAR KALAFAT.

The *Vienna Press* gives some particulars of a sharp battle which took place on the 4th inst., at Giditsch, near Kalafat, and which ended in the defeat of the Russians. Achmet Pacha, the commandant of Kalafat, thinking the opportunity for attacking the Russians too favourable to be missed, marched out upon them with a strong force, and attacked them in their position at Giditsch. The struggle was long and bloody, but was at length decided in favour of the Ottomans by a brilliant charge of the Turkish cavalry, under Iskender Bey (Count Kinsky), at four p.m., on which, after great exertion, the Russians were driven from the place with immense loss. The captors at once occupied the village in force, and have since thrown into it a strong garrison from Widdin.

Lord Raglan left Paris for Marseilles yesterday morning.

By letters and despatches from Constantinople of the 6th, we learn that the British and French fleets still kept the sea, or rather remained at sea, for letters as well as telegraphic despatches again speak of Russian ships as having been seen off Batoun. This would be less credible were it not for the well authenticated fact that the Russians had just before been permitted to withdraw their troops and military stores from several of the forts on the east coast of the Black Sea.

A communication from Vienna, of yesterday morning, states that the important town of Toskian, in Wallachia, which had just been fortified, had been destroyed by fire, and all the Russian stores, provisions, and even the military hospitals, have been consumed. The same communication states that the Russians occupy Kustendje; but a despatch from Constantinople speaks of Omar Pacha having received a reinforcement of 3,000 men, who, with twenty guns, were landed under the protection of the British fleet at Kustendje.

A despatch from Vienna, dated yesterday evening, says, that on the 14th, the Russians occupied Tarnaseverni, in Serbia; and that the Cossacks, having crossed the Danube at New Orsova, the Turks had bombarded the place.

Another statement from the same quarter is, that a part of the allied fleets were off Odessa, and that all the Russian ports in the Black Sea were declared in a state of blockade.

A curious account of questions and answers exchanged between Russian and Anglo-French steamers in the Black Sea, is copied by the *Times* from the *Invalide Russe*. Its purport will be found in our Summary.

The Russians are constructing two forts, which will command the entrance of the southernmost (St. George's) mouth of the Danube.

The steamship *Golden Fleece*, which left Malta on the 31st ult., with General Sir G. Brown, a large number of officers, and nearly a thousand rank and file of Rifles and Sappers and Miners, arrived at Gallipoli in the night of the 5th inst., and on the 8th landed the first body of troops of the British expedition which has reached Turkey. The delay in the disembarkation of the men is ascribed to the want of the necessary preparations for their reception.

All the forces intended for the East have left Malta except some 150 of the 49th, that the *Sultan* could not take, and the Guards, who were ordered to be ready to embark to-morrow, in the *Golden Fleece*, *Vulcan*, and *Kangaroo* on their return.

French troops are continually arriving at Malta, and passing on to the East. Four ships of the line, two screw, and one of them a three-decker, are reported to have passed forty-five miles to the east of Malta on Sunday (week). The vessels that passed them say they were full of troops, en route for Gallipoli.

A letter from St. Petersburg, in a Frankfort journal, states that both the Prussian and Austrian ambassadors refused to attend the *Te Deum* sung in presence of the Imperial family, on the occasion of the passage of the Danube by the Russians.

A letter from Athens, of the 7th, in a Vienna journal, states that a Russian Secretary of Embassy had just arrived with a note from the Cabinet of St. Petersburg, for the Greek Government. The same letter informs us that a half squadron of light cavalry had left Athens for Arta.

According to advices from Turin of the 15th inst., the Sardinian Government has issued an order prohibiting any privateers under the Russian flag from being armed, provisioned, or harboured, with their prizes, in Sardinian ports.

Captain Winter's troop of the 17th Lancers embarked yesterday morning from Portsmouth Dockyard in the fine clipper ship *Fride of the Ocean*, for Turkey. Captain Webb's troop embarked at four o'clock from the dockyard jetty on board the transport *Ganges*. These vessels were towed to Spithead, whence they sail for their destination. They were enthusiastically greeted by the population.

No. 26 transport sailed from Spithead for Queens-town yesterday morning.

At one o'clock yesterday the new Cunard screw-steamer *Melita*, Captain T. Cook, one of the fastest of their numerous fleet, sailed for Malta and Gallipoli (touching at Gibraltar for coals) from Liverpool. Early on Monday morning the *Melita* embarked 40 men of the 19th regiment under the command of Captain Ledwall, 27 officers' servants, 38 horses, and 300 tons of Government stores. The *Melita* also took as passengers a number of staff officers. The horses were embarked on board the *Melita* at the Coburg Dock without the slightest accident, though one of them jumped from the gangway to the top of the dockhouse, without, however, injuring itself. The fittings-up for

the horses (which are very valuable ones) were far superior to anything of the sort previously seen; and as the *Melita* is a very fine and swift steamer, they will doubtless reach their destination in full health and vigour.

The remaining portion of the 13th Light Dragoons left the Birmingham barracks yesterday morning for Coventry, en route for Hounslow, previous to their embarkation for the East. In the course of the day a considerable detachment of the 6th Enniskillens arrived from Lichfield, and this morning leave Birmingham on their way to one of the western ports. The men were apparently in high spirits, and were cordially received by the inhabitants of Birmingham. Another portion of this fine regiment has proceeded from Derby, through Warwick, westward.

MISCELLANEOUS.

By the American mail, we learn that in the House of Representatives the bill for increasing the navy by six steam frigates had been passed by a considerable majority. In the course of the discussion Mr. Peckham (Democrat) offered an amendment, increasing the number of frigates to be built to nine. He referred to the statement recently received from England, that some excitement had been created in commercial circles by Lord Clarendon's announcement to the Riga merchants that all Russian products, to whomsoever belonging, and even in neutral vessels, shall be lawful prizes in the event of war. In commenting on this Order in Council, Mr. Gibbons said:—"This Order in Council was the assertion of the virtual right of search by the British Government—a doctrine, certainly, to which we have never acceded, and to which we never can accede. It is a question of great importance to this country, for our commerce with Russia is large; hence the question comes directly home to us. Great Britain asks our sympathies against Russia, and she, perhaps, has them, but it is all-important that Great Britain should distinctly understand that she is encroaching on a doctrine which we hold as vital to our interests, and we should be in a position not only to proclaim this doctrine, but to have it respected. It is more easy to prevent aggression than to seek redress after the wrong has been done." He hoped this matter would be properly considered by the House. He would not only call the attention of the House to it, but would have Great Britain understand our views on this question.

The Governor of New York had vetoed the Maine Liquor Law, which it was proposed in the Legislature to extend to New York.

The General Screw Steam Shipping Company's ship *Harbinger*, has arrived from Sydney and Port Phillip. Her news has been anticipated by the *Overland Mail*. She brings 16,174 ounces of gold from Sydney, and 57,168 ounces from Port Phillip. Total value, £293,388. Also 150 bales of wool, and a heavy mail.

By advices from Madrid of the 13th inst. we learn that the Queen has amnestied the soldiers of the Regiment of Cordova who took part in the revolt at Saragossa.

The anti-church-rate party at King's Lynn have achieved an unexpected victory. At the close of yesterday's poll there was a majority of 144 against the rate.

A notification, dated April 17th, has been issued by the General Board of Health, warning boards of guardians, local boards of health, parochial boards, and other local authorities, against placing a false security in the present apparent disappearance of epidemic cholera, and reinforcing their instructions in methods of prevention.

A woman named Barbara Mitchell, aged thirty-nine years, who resided at No. 15, Little White Lion-street, Seven Dials, St. Giles, and cohabited with a man named William Bussey, was yesterday killed by her paramour. The deceased came home tipsy, when Bussey commenced kicking her with all his force, and knocked her down; cries of murder were heard by the neighbours, but no notice was taken of so frequent an occurrence. She was at length found lying on the floor, quite dead, every part of her person exhibiting marks of violence, which had evidently been occasioned by heavy blows and kicks. Bussey has for the present escaped the vigilance of the police.

The Liverpool magistrates were engaged some hours yesterday, investigating a charge preferred against the captain and first and second mates of the ship *Mongatona*, for murdering three of the crew on the passage from Singapore to Liverpool.

A serious fight took place in Winchester, on Sunday last, between about 150 soldiers belonging to the 88th Regiment and the Hants militia. The regulars had been sneering at the awkwardness and unsoldierlike qualities of the militia men. Several soldiers were taken to the hospital dreadfully, and it is feared fatally wounded. The militia men numbered two to one over the regulars. The policemen were too few to stop, or even to mitigate the disgraceful affray.

The Government emigrant ship, *Maria Hay*, Capt. Brown, 1,007 tons, which left Southampton on Monday morning, with a full general cargo and 401 passengers, came in contact, at nine o'clock in the evening, with a strange steamer (probably the *Harbinger*), which carried away her bowsprit close to the stem. She entered Plymouth Sound yesterday evening. Her repairs will occupy several days.

CORN EXCHANGE, MARK LANE, WEDNESDAY, April 19, 1854.

In the business doing, fully last Monday's rates are made. Arrivals this week:—Wheat, English, 320 qrs.; Foreign, 12,750 qrs. Barley, English, 1,910 qrs.; Foreign, 11,500 qrs. Oats, English, 960 qrs.; Irish, 700 qrs.; Foreign, 16,500 qrs. Flour, English, 750 sks.; Foreign, 1,780 bbls.

THE NEWSPAPER STAMP RETURNS.

The return of the number of newspaper stamps at one penny issued to newspapers in the United Kingdom in 1851, 1852, and 1853, has been laid before the House of Commons. Its results are very interesting and instructive. The following is the statement of stamps issued for the *Nonconformist* from its commencement to the close of last year:—

1841	43,000
1842	110,850
1843	115,900
1844	117,064
1845	108,500
1846	113,500
1847	118,550
1848	145,850
1849	146,500
1850	154,175
1851	149,700
1852	149,175
1853	167,000

Thus for the last year, it will be seen that our average weekly circulation was somewhat over 3,200. We have great pleasure in drawing attention to the fact, that the circle of our supporters has been steadily enlarging from the commencement, and continues to increase.

TO ADVERTISERS.

The *NONCONFORMIST* affords an excellent medium for advertisements of Assurance Companies, Schools, Philanthropic and Religious Societies, Books, Situations, and Tradesmen's announcements, &c.

SCALE OF CHARGES.

	s.	d.		s.	d.
For 3 Lines ..	1	6	For 6 Lines ..	3	0
4 Lines ..	2	0	7 Lines ..	3	6
5 Lines ..	2	6	8 Lines ..	4	0

For every succeeding Line, 3d.

Eight Words are contained in a Line, and each Line of CAPITALS is charged as Two Lines. Advertisements must be paid for in advance.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

The Terms of Subscription are (payment in advance) 26s. per annum, 13s. for the half-year, and 6s. 6d. per quarter.

All communications RELATING TO ADVERTISEMENTS, AND SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE PAPER, should be addressed to Mr. William Freeman, Publisher, 69, Fleet-street, London, to whom POST-OFFICE ORDERS must be made payable at the General Post-office.

Covers for binding the *Nonconformist*, price 3s. each, and Portfolios for filing the current volume, price 4s. 6d. each, may be had at the Publishing-office, or through any bookseller or news-agent.

*. Several copies of the *Nonconformist*, of Dec. 28 1853, with Supplement, are wanted to complete volumes for binding. — Address to the Publisher, 69, Fleet-street.

IN CONSEQUENCE OF THE PROBABLE SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT, THE DAY APPOINTED BY ROYAL PROCLAMATION "FOR HUMILIATION AND FASTING," THE *NONCONFORMIST* WILL BE PUBLISHED ON THURSDAY.

A LITERARY SUPPLEMENT, of Eight Pages containing Reviews of many recent interesting and valuable Publications, will be given with the *Nonconformist* of Thursday next.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"John Vernon." Rates are due as soon as made. He is therefore liable for the whole.

"Castle Donnington." Registration is required by law, for political purposes, and it enables the parties to secure protection from outrage. We are not sure whether unregistered places can be brought under the operation of the Charitable Trusts Act, but we suspect they may.

"W. Antliff." Any Bill or Parliamentary paper may be had of Hansard, Turnstile, Holborn, at the rate of about 1d. per oz.

The Lymington report, among others, arrived too late for use this week.

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 1854.

SUMMARY.

THE tidings of a first success, and the first formidable utterance of long-gathering discontent, are almost simultaneously heard. A division of the Baltic fleet, under the command of Rear-Admiral Plumridge, has captured five or six of the enemy's merchant ships, laden with valuable cargoes, and sent them, under charge of a single steamer, into a Danish port. The achievement is of course simply a proof of activity on the part of our commanders and crews. The slight degree to which the ice has as yet broken up, forbids the present display of higher qualities; and the rumoured resolution of the

Russian Government to retreat before the invader of its frozen waters, may for some time defeat the desire for any decisive encounter. The island of Oland is understood to have been already abandoned; and as the fleet is reported off Bornholm (we presume our reader's acquaintance with the map); we may expect ere long to hear that from its strong towers wave the flags of the Western powers.

In the *Times* of this morning, we read an attack upon the inactivity of the Black-Sea fleet, and the tardiness of our military movements, which certainly expresses a universal feeling; and, though apparently prompted by the boasts of a St. Petersburg journal, was probably more premeditated. The *Invalide Russe* gives an official account of the destruction, by a squadron of Prince Menschikoff's fleet, of the Russian fortresses on the Circassian coast, and the undisturbed conveyance of 5,000 picked troops to Sebastopol. As if to give an additional zest to the Russian triumph, the squadron fell in with two of our steamers, cruising about, while the main body lay snug at Beicos, informed them of what had been done, and were in turn informed of their names and business. "The country will require to be told," remarks the *Times*, "what condition of weather that could be which rendered the Black Sea inaccessible to our fleets, but offered no obstacle to the enterprise of Prince Menschikoff. Are the English become such fresh-water sailors that they are forced to permit an enemy to snatch a prize from their grasp, because they dare not trust themselves to the elements which he braves with impunity? Our fleet has been a witness of the disaster of Sinope, which, if it could not prevent, it might at any rate have avenged, and it now sees our enemies reinforced with the same impunity as that with which our friends were destroyed."

The country may also require to be told, why the ten thousand we sent away six weeks since, are but now transported to Gallipoli, and why not to Varna instead of to Gallipoli? why the cavalry have not yet left our ports, and the commanders were, up to yesterday morning, dancing at Imperial balls, and assisting at the reconstruction of an Imperial summer-house? Without sharing the apprehensions said to have been expressed by General Baraghaty d'Hilliers—that to avoid the occurrence of a Sinope on land, the armies and their commanders must use all possible despatch—inclining rather to the opinion that the Turks are able to hold their present ground against the Russians for an indefinite time—we yet strongly object to this trifling with the emotions, if not with the interests, of Europe; this permitting an alternate show of energy and of indolence to cast suspicion on our resolves, and to expose the Turkish Government to the perilous distrusts of its fiercest defenders.

Who are our allies? will be the next question put by the country, through the House of Commons, when Ministers are again accessible. The order given by Baron Bruck, for all Austrian vessels to quit the waters of Constantinople, is no less irreconcilable than the position of an Austrian army on the Servian frontier, with the sincere adhesion of that Power to the Western alliance. The conduct of Prussia is still vacillating. The alleged recall of Chevalier Bunsen, is now described as a leave of absence from his post; and we have every day renewed assurances of the progress of a treaty that is never completed. The late debate in the Second Chamber, shows the arbitrary as well as the anti-national spirit of the Government; and, if the latter be indulged, the former will probably aid in stimulating to convulsions that will not be confined to Berlin.

Though the marshes of the Dobrudja are not yet firm enough to bear the transport of artillery, and the snow still lies thick upon the mountains of Armenia, we in these higher latitudes are indulged with a spring such as is common to less temperate climes,—a continuance, to the middle of fickle April, of the rainless sunny weather that followed immediately on the subsidence of a severe winter. Hence, the Easter holidays are this year observed with even unwonted universality and abandonment. On Good Friday business was suspended with a unanimity highly gratifying to the humanitarian, if not to the Churchman—and again on Monday and yesterday, there was a very extensive preference of pleasure to profit. Better still,—the preference is every year more marked for the higher over the lower pleasures. The museums, picture galleries, and varied exhibitions of the metropolis—the palaces, parks, and other rural resorts, within fifty miles, are increasingly sought after; while thousands avail themselves of judiciously moderated fares to visit Brighton, Birmingham, and other remoter spots of pleasure or interest—and even the multitude to whom is relegated "Greenwich Fair," see in its faded attractions but the reflection of their own growing discontent with aught that Greenwich Fair could ever offer. Verily, the people have refined their manners of late years, if they have not greatly added to their virtues.

We think we have a corroborative instance, in the revolting narrative of the execution at Monag-

han, of our frequent complaint—that the Legislature, while professing, and sincerely, supreme anxiety for the elevation of the national character, assists to produce the very opposite result by its obstinate maintenance of capital punishments. The disgusting details of the Ribandmen's execution, we will not here reproduce. It must suffice to say, that they died, for the perpetration of a cowardly, and apparently unprovoked crime, with the exultation of martyrs—an exultation created by their spiritual attendants, and fostered by the sympathy of the multitude. Not a few of our contemporaries,—some, we regret to observe, who should know much better,—tag to the loathsome story an anti-papal moral. We suspect that the clergymen who absolved these impious wretches, permitted their blasphemies, and prompted their raptures, violated the rules and the spirit of their Church—we are sure that the theology which allows to the author of a horrid crime, however profound his penitence, the assurance of a saint, is an atrocious theology, be it Romish or Protestant. But we maintain that the proper lesson of this affair is,—the utter inutility of capital punishment as a regular instrument of justice. Familiarized with the idea of public, penal death, neither the subject nor the spectators of the infliction are dismayed. It raises in their imbruted minds no definite apprehension of physical pain—and any spiritual demagogue, any chaplain of an agrarian conspiracy, can convert the idea of after-life into an anodyne, even an inspiration. "S. G. O.," the influential and indefatigable correspondent of the *Times*, takes this impression from the horrid scene; and recommends the punishment of such villains by repeated scourgings on the site of their offence—to be followed by imprisonment for life. We see not the necessity for the scourgings; but every condition of effectual punishment in the life-long incarceration. We therefore prefer to the example of "S. G. O.," that of the Norwich people,—who, a few days after the brutalizing exhibition lately forced upon their city, crowded into St. Andrew's Hall, to hear a deputation from the Anti-Capital Punishment Society; and supported by their unanimous vote the object of that association. If the same thing were done in every city where a gallows is kept, the engine of death would soon cease to rear its hideous head.

THE APPOINTED FAST.

WEDNESDAY next has been set apart by Royal Proclamation as a day of national fasting and humiliation. We are to be religious "according to order." We seem to imagine that Heaven is moved, not, indeed, "by much speaking," but by speaking simultaneously. A humble and contrite heart God himself has said he will not despise. Happy would our country be if every heart in it were humble, and every spirit contrite! But were this the case, which, alas! it is far enough from being, we are nowhere told that a preconcerted display of our feeling, at a given signal, would be more pleasing to the Most High than the "mourning apart," at such time as might be most convenient, of every family, or every individual. True religion shuns "stage effects," and we fear a day of national fasting and humiliation, much sincere devotion as it may evoke, is rather dramatically, than spiritually, impressive.

We have plunged into a war, and therefore we are to humble ourselves. Might we not have more fittingly done this before taking that fatal step? In prospect of so great a calamity—before our rulers had decided upon an appeal to arms—in the hope of averting the impending scourge—there would, at least, have been a timeliness in our cry to Heaven for mercy. How was it that no Bishop made the proposal then? But the country would not have listened to it. No! the people were chiding the Government for lengthening out their negotiations. A martial spirit was a-foot, and would not bear to be checked. Every child cried out for "a brush with Russia." Every soul was proud of British prowess. To be humble just then, was to be out of tune with the occasion. And so we waited until the cords of negotiation were all snapped—until the die was cast—until our fleets were let loose for havoc—and our soldiers shipped for Turkey—and now we betake ourselves to fasting and humiliation.

Are we going to ascribe this war to the irresistible fiat of Divine Providence? Are we about to absolve ourselves from all responsibility in bringing it about? Are we really prepared to charge High Heaven with the event we profess to deplore, and to demean ourselves as those who suffer under an infliction which they could not have evaded? It would seem so. The forms of prayer prescribed by authority for the occasion imply as much—and, in this conviction, we are to ask the Almighty to bless our arms, and to give us victory over our foes. But may we not be deceiving ourselves. We may set great store upon "the integrity and independence of the Ottoman Empire," upon "the balance of power in Europe," and upon "curbing the aggressive spirit of Russia"—but are we sure that

these are necessary elements of Providential government? Are we certain that, in consenting to the Menshikoff note, we should have betrayed our duty to the Ruler of nations, or have taken a step in disobedience of His will? "National honour" is an effective phrase enough as between man and man—but of what account will it be in the judgment of the Supreme? The only law that He will recognise as binding upon us, is His own law. The law super-imposed by our own pride will go for nothing. The necessity which has dragged us into war is none of His creating. Let us beware of imputing our own folly to His will, and then bewailing our misfortune.

But we have need to humble ourselves—not as a preliminary to the anticipated joys of triumph—but as the necessary basis of future improvement. We have need to be ashamed and mourn that after Christianity has been so long with us, it should not hitherto have baptized our public policy with its benignant spirit. We have need to bewail our hardness of heart, that "a more excellent way" of settling international disputes has not been adopted, than that of hacking and hewing our fellow mortals, and blowing them to atoms. We have need to deplore our national meddlesomeness of spirit, and our "eagerness for the fray." If Wednesday next were to be observed for the purpose of chastising and subduing our own passions, confessing our numerous sins of aggression in India, Burmah, and elsewhere, and praying for a quieter, more contented, and more peaceable temper, we should hope something from it. As it is, the day, we fear, will prove to most little better than "a delusion, a mockery, and a snare."

EASTER THOUGHTS.

If any other sentiment than that of consciousness we are engaged in an arduous struggle, and of loyal resolve to bring it, by the wise concentration of energy, to a happy conclusion, might be permitted at this moment, our Easter Thoughts would dwell upon the sad contrast there is between the hour and the work—between Christendom, the Kingdom of the Prince of Peace, and Christendom the subject of sanguinary passion or more sanguinary design; between earth radiant with the light that burst from the mouth of the sepulchre when the stone of hopeless death was rolled away, and earth stained with the blood of its conflicting or its trampled children. But no such diversion is permissible—or only for a moment. We seek, therefore, other regions for our musings.

Nor have we far to seek. Easter may be safely contemplated as a holiday, though we must not, lest we slacken the nerves that are strained to duty, contemplate it as a commemoration. It is, from side to side of Europe, a time for making merry with one's friends, and, therefore, with one's heart—a time for the making of visits and the giving of gifts. It is a day of release from the bondage of labour and of traffic—and from the worse bondage of cold custom. It is a break in the monotony of everyday life—and, very narrow though it be, a mere slit in a hard, thick wall, through it how much of pleasure may not stream! Perhaps, through this loop-hole of four and twenty hours or so, we catch a glimpse that shall "make us less forlorn" for a year to come—a glimpse, perchance, of a face that would have been long ago forgotten, did not its rare beauty make it "a bright remembrance, ne'er to be destroyed;" or a glimpse, it may be, into some mind that answers to the look as face to face in water; or even a glimpse of a "bit of country," sending back the gazer with a cheerful discontent to his home in crowded city or more dismal village. With every railway train and steamboat bearing its full load—hurrying hither and thither not a few impatient for household joys, however many more in pursuit of only vulgar pleasures—with every avenue to the centres of social life teeming as the path to an anthill—we will not doubt that there is a splendid addition made by Easter to the ordinary sum of human felicity.

But Easter as a holiday has also its suggestions of contrast. Just as the sublime solitudes or gayest scenes of nature excite a thought of the wildernesses and the caverns of social life—of the sordid strife of towns and the stupid stagnancy of rural places—so does the spectacle of an English carnival—of tens of thousands indulging, in their brief leisure, their varied tastes—provoke the recollection that, in whole districts of even this soberly merry England, there is never known a day of leisure that is not darkened by the shadow of want; there are no tastes, because the senses are all dulled by continual hungering, or by fiery substitutes for bread. To many minds the suggestion and the evidence of this terrible fact must have been presented, on the very eve of Easter, by that most touching article in Mr. Dickens's weekly sheet—"The Quiet Poor." From that article thousands may have learnt, for the first time, what we who know it cannot dare to be always telling—that there is in London, in a part once busy, wealthy and gay, at the point where Shoreditch adjoins Bethnal-green, an amount and sort of suffering for which we have no ready epithet; suffering that we cannot call frightful, it

is so silently borne—nor terrible, it has so utterly bereft its victims of all but strength to endure—nor cruel, it is so useless to lavish indignation on impersonalities. On an area of about a quarter of a mile long and a quarter of a mile wide, the writer tells us, there dwell 14,000 people! There is not a decent house in the district, nor one householder: the clergyman lives outside his parish, though ever at work in it. In one cottage, containing four rooms and a cellar, twenty-six residents were counted up:

The whole place is completely destitute of sewerage; one sewer has been made in a street which forms part of its boundary—it has its share in that, but nothing more. The houses all stand over cesspools; and before the windows filth, dead cats, and putrid matter of all sorts run down or stagnate in the open gutters. In summer time the courts and lanes are rich with exhalation, and in autumn their atmosphere is deadly. The heat lifts out of the filthy courts a heavy vapour of death, the overcrowded rooms are scarcely tenable, and the inhabitants, as much as time and weather will permit, turn out into the road before their doors. The air everywhere indeed is stifling, but within doors many of the cottages must be intolerable.

The inhabitants are almost exclusively either weavers or street-hawkers, but all earn money when they can, and have a universal horror of the workhouse. "Account was made of the earnings of a whole lane, and they were found to average 3½d. a day for the maintenance of each inhabitant, both great and small." They subsist chiefly upon "potatoes and cheap fish, buying sprats when they are to be had, and in default of them sitting down to dine on potatoes and a herring." Thus lodged and thus fed, of course they are ever sick and dying. "There was I think, about one in six positively disabled by sickness."

Though the incumbent of this parochial district about which I speak is truly a Christian gentleman, he has his body to maintain alive, and dares not remain too long in the poison bath of his unsewered district during the hot summer days. He visits then only the dying, and they are not few. "I have seen," he said, "a dead child in a cellar, and its father dying by its side, a living daughter covered with a sack to hide her nakedness when I went in, the rest all hungry and wretched, furniture gone, and an open sewer streaming down into a pool upon the floor." Again he said, "I have seen in the sickly autumn months a ruined household opposite the back premises of a tripe and leather factory, which is a dreadful nuisance to its neighbours; it emits a frightful stench, and lays men, women, and children down upon sick beds right and left. In this room opposite the place I have seen the father of the family and three children hopelessly ill with typhus fever, and the eldest daughter with malignant small-pox, while the mother, the one person able to stir about, sat on a chair in the midst of them all, deadened with misery. The place by which this household was being murdered has been several times indicted and fined as a nuisance. Every time this has occurred, the proprietors have paid the fine and gone on as before; they regard such fine-paying as only a small item in their trade expenses."

The high prices of the late hard winter have stripped many a room in this plague-stricken region of the little superfluities in which the poorest poor delight; and taken often every change of raiment to the "leaving-house"—where money is lent without legal license, and at most illegal interest—before the cherished picture was taken from the wall, or the Dresden shepherdess from the mantel-shelf. They are looking for the return of better days with summer—hoping against hope that war will not set its ravening foot upon the growing corn, and cholera will spare them as it rides upon the southern breeze.

It would be shameful if our Easter Thoughts were to stop short of asking, What is doing for the diminution of contrasts like that suggested? What can be done for the amelioration of a spot like St. Philip's, Shoreditch? Answering the one question by answering the other, we should say, However impossible to restore industrial prosperity to that doomed region—however difficult to distribute its swarming population over happier sites—there are some things that may be done, and must not be neglected. Its rows of hovels might be underlaid with sewers, ere the summer sun can exhale into mephitic vapour the surface of the cesspool and the running puddle. The larger poison manufactories might be as summarily suppressed as would be a gang of hireling murderers. A nest of improved dwellings might be run up in time to shelter hundreds from the clouds that rain down death—seeing that the families herding in one room apiece pay several shillings a-week for that niggard accommodation. Schools are already there—and if there were not, might be safely left out of the question till these things were accomplished. Yet, with the impression fresh upon our minds of what industrial training is doing for the children of a neighbouring district,—and, we rejoice to learn, for the children of a similar district, at the other end of London, the Kensington Potteries—we will not close without a word of earnest advocacy for the Ragged School and Refuge—that agent of amelioration which provides as well a better future as relieves the most pungent of present sufferings.

THE OPPORTUNITIES OF GERMANY.

INTIMATELY as are the interests of Western Europe involved in the great European struggle now commenced, its results will be far more vitally

felt in the great Teutonic family that peoples central Europe. Northern Germany, and especially Prussia, occupies a position somewhat analogous to that of England after the restoration of the Stuarts. Charles II., disregarding the predilections of the nation, broke with our Protestant allies in the Netherlands, and followed his personal and dynastic bias by concluding a secret treaty with Louis XIV., who at that period was even more bent upon extending his empire by conquest and annexation than is now the Czar. But happily, the British Parliament, though shorn of its pristine authority, still retained a firm hold on the purse-strings of the nation. The necessities of the dissoluble and needy monarch, combined with this constitutional pluck, were too strong for his absolutist tendencies. Louis the Grand, though unceasing in his diplomatic intrigues at the Court of Whitehall, and unsparing in his subsidies to Charles, was unable to draw England into an alliance against the Low Countries. In a few years, not only was England emancipated from this disgraceful compact, but with a unanimity almost unparalleled, placed upon the throne a Prince of the House of Orange, and widened the basis of popular freedom.

The contest between dynastic and national interests in Prussia seems to be approaching a similar crisis. Frederick William has now to choose between a personal and a national policy—an alliance with his brother-in-law, the Czar, in the interests of absolutism, and a course which, by undermining, if not by destroying Russian influence at Berlin, necessitates further progress in the direction of constitutionalism. It is not surprising, therefore, that the people of Prussia, and indeed of all Northern Germany, watch the progress of the war with anxious interest. For them, although at present no more than spectators, it is a war of liberation. The British flag in the Baltic, is identified in their minds with emancipation of their fatherland; with the downfall of the Gerlasks, Groebens, and other Russian satellites that infest every German Court, and thwart the policy of more honest statesmen. By the rough agency of a European war, it would seem as though a way were opening for the extension of popular freedom in Germany—not by means of violent revolutions, which despotism, in the long run, is able to extinguish, but by widening the basis and increasing the importance of representative institutions. The overshadowing influence of Russia is the very circumstance that binds together the despotic system of German Courts, and makes it for the time irresistible.

The development of free institutions in Prussia assumes, therefore, at the present moment, a peculiar interest. Although it would seem that she has made a retrograde movement, of late years, in this respect, and though the functions of her Parliament have been greatly restricted and its moral influence impaired, the germ still remains. The form of constitutionalism is upheld in spite of the ascendancy of Russian faction; and it is evident that the principle is recognised and valued by the great bulk of the nation. The Prussian people are in advance of their present institutions. They cherish expectations of something better than now falls to their lot. With them, probably, as with ourselves, free institutions will be the result of gradual changes rather than of violent convulsions. To them we may apply the words—

"For freedom's battle, once begun,
Bequeathed from bleeding sire to son
Though baffled oft, is ever won."

This sentiment harmonises with the gratifying display of manly patriotic feeling manifested by MM. Bethman Hollweg and Vincke, in the late debate, in the Prussian Chambers, on the war loan, echoed by the public voice, led on by a newspaper press singularly unanimous. The opposition of the Western Powers to Russian aggression is calling into life the slumbering energies of Germany. In the present instance, national independence means free institutions and national progress. Hence the virulence thrown into the contest by the partisans of Russia, and the obstinacy of the Berlin Court in clinging to a cause condemned by its own State papers and by the united voice of Europe. For Prussia to pass over to the side of her great neighbour is, as Lord Clarendon says, "impossible." Frederick William is a constitutional sovereign, and at the present juncture he neither can nor dare dispense with its forms. He cannot rashly oppose himself to the national sentiment without running the risk of revolution. The personal predilections of royalty are clearly of less weight than at any former crisis of Germany history. The frequent threats of resignation by M. Manteuffel, whose sympathies are more patriotic than Muscovite, are not without a parallel in our own history, as the forerunners of popular successes.

Whether, therefore, or not, the great conflict in which we are engaged establish the independence and promote the regeneration of Turkey, and repay the two Western Powers in any tangible form for their lavish expenditure of blood and treasure, there does seem some ground for hoping that, by crippling the power of Russia, and by thwarting an external influence which has never

yet been checked in European courts, that blighting spell which has for so many years past enthralled Austria, Prussia, Sweden, Denmark, Greece, and intimidated even the more independent States of Western Europe, will be for ever dissolved—that the “organized hypocrisy” of the Russian diplomatic system will be exploded, and sovereigns and peoples be left, as we have been, to fight out amongst themselves the battle of freedom against prescription. A gain to constitutionalism at Berlin will not be without its effects at Vienna; moderate reforms in Germany have now a great opportunity. The two great Powers are too instinctively rivals in position and interests to admit of cordial co-operation except in great emergencies, such as insurrection. Apparently, the grasp of despotism upon the throat of continental liberty is relaxing; the convulsions of 1849 may not be at present repeated, for national revolutions do not often occur in so short intervals. But it may be that by the removal of the great incubus that has kept down European progress, continental Courts may find it necessary to make such concessions as will avert revolution, and, at the same time, issue in a large extension of popular liberty, and in unbinding those elastic energies that work out national freedom and prosperity.

POST OFFICE LONDON DIRECTORY.—It is only three months since we had occasion to notice this as the most wonderful of annual phenomena in the way of typography or compilation; and here it is again reprinted, enlarged, and improved! “The names of persons who have entered on new offices or residences since the beginning of the year, now appear in all parts of the book.” A still further improvement has been made on the marginal index to the divisions of the volume, by colouring the edges, so that the finger-nail may be inserted almost at the very page wanted.

DARTON'S STATISTICAL TABLES FOR THE HALF-CENTURY.—We renew, with pleasure, the complimentary notice we had occasion to make of this work some twelve months since. The new edition extends to twenty-six chapters, and comprises, within less than forty pages, all the information that can be given by figures of our material, political, and social growth, since 1801; and as much of personal information as can be contained in a list of official personages, and in a well-classified obituary. We miss nothing but a chapter of statistics of religion.

SHAMEFUL IGNORANCE OF NATURE.—At present, many a man who is versed in Greek metre, and afterwards full of law reports, is childishly ignorant of nature. Let him walk with an intelligent child for a morning, and the child will ask him a hundred questions about sun, moon, stars, plants, birds, building, farming, and the like, to which he can give very sorry answers, if any; or, at the best, he has but a second-hand acquaintance with nature. Man's conceits are his main knowledge. Whereas, if he had any pursuit connected with nature, all nature is in harmony with it, is brought into his presence by it; and it affords at once cultivation and recreation.—*Friends in Council.*

The twenty-eight days training of the Essex Rifles commenced yesterday at Colchester. On Monday the Colchester men were marched to the bath-house, Osborne-street, to undergo the customary ablution previous to being served with their regimentals. After the arrival of the countrymen next day they were also to be marched to the bath, and then furnished with their dresses. The total strength of the regiment is said to be 846, but in consequence of many having enlisted into the regulars, some deserted, and others having removed from their parishes, and not receiving their notices, it was thought likely that there would be numerous absentees, and the regiment very far short of its complement. The militia musters also commence in other parts of the country.

The health of the metropolis is good. In the week ending Saturday, the deaths registered showed a decrease on the returns of preceding weeks. The number was 1,087; in the previous week it was 1,149. In the 10 weeks corresponding to last week, of the years 1844-53, the average number was 1,013, which, if raised in proportion to increase of population, becomes 1,114. Diseases affecting the organs of respiration have declined in the aggregate number of their fatal cases from 219 to 179 in the last two weeks. Diseases of the zymotic or epidemic class were fatal in 254 cases, while the corrected average is 218. Typhus and continued fever appear to increase, having risen in two weeks from 47 to 59. Hooping-cough carried off 63 children. Measles and scarlatina carried off 34 and 39 respectively. There were five deaths from small-pox, 18 occurred from diarrhoea, and 2 from cholera. The births were 796 boys and 778 girls. In the nine corresponding weeks of the years 1845-53 the average number was 1,893.

Some wag has consigned to voluntary imprisonment a respectable elderly gentleman of Exmouth who labours under an asthmatic complaint. In the garden fronting the invalid's house a flag-staff is erected, with a vane on the top, a view of which he commands from his sitting-room window. During the prevalence of easterly winds, he avoids going out of doors as much as possible. Some one well acquainted with his habits, it appears, took an opportunity one night to climb up the flag-staff, and with a hammer and nail fastened the vane due east. The consequence was, the old gentleman referred to his vane every morning, as was his custom, to see what quarter the wind was in, and not suspecting anything wrong, was kept indoors thirteen days after it had changed!

OPINIONS ON THE CONDUCT AND CONTINGENCIES OF THE WAR.

The current of newspaper discussion has been turned, by the actual commencement of war, into a new channel. How most quickly to restore peace, and make it permanent, is the great question to which public instructors in the daily and weekly press now address themselves. The non-political monthlies strike in here, with their contributions of historical, military, or local knowledge;—*Bentley's Miscellany* furnishing several articles on the general subject in one number. It will be seen that already, and even in journals most attached to the Ministry, the discussion takes the tone of dissatisfied criticism; “communications” in leader type significantly heralding editorial decision. It will also be observed that, in the apprehension of a severe and protracted struggle, new auxiliaries are described in the tawny-faced thousands of British India. As many selected passages as we can make room for now we subjoin:—

OUR ALLIES, PRESENT AND POSSIBLE.

Some people seem inclined to undertake a Russian war with the same light-hearted spirit in which they would start to see the Darby. They forget who are our allies and who our enemies.

France, Austria, Prussia, Turkey, and some of the northern powers are, or are expected to be, with us. Of these, the Emperor of the French is the most decided, and, as Ministers assert, is the most trusted. No doubt it is their duty to profess publicly all confidence in the faith and honour of so powerful an ally. But it is equally their duty privately to remember that Louis Napoleon is not remarkable for his unselfishness, nor very rigidly bound by his engagements. His antecedents are become history, and Lord John Russell and Lord Palmerston are not such innocents as to be beguiled by the protestations of a man who has not always paid strict attention to his oaths. Louis Napoleon has invented a scheme of conquest as original as that of his uncle, and far less costly. Rome was invested and carried by a French army in a strictly friendly spirit; and Rome is still garrisoned by Louis Napoleon. Suppose a similar chain of circumstances were to plant a French garrison in Constantinople—were to locate a French army in Alexandria, and another in the passes of the Lebanon; is it not just possible that we should have more difficulty in getting the French out than we shall have in keeping the Russians from coming in?

Austria, again, is to be more or less an ally. Austria, who hates every Englishman with a bitter personal hatred; Austria, whom every Englishman abhors; Austria, who sabres our countrymen, detests our Government, shocks all our classic sentiment in Italy, and outrages our human feelings in Hungary and Poland—Austria is to be our good friend, if not our companion in arms. Oh, how popular had this war been if Austria had been ranged on the other side! With what joy should we have seen the word given to Poland, to Hungary, but, above all, to poor Italy, who still writhes and curses under the heel of the barbarian. But Austria, true to her truckling and cowardly policy, will side with us and love our enemies, and make us help her to destroy our friends.

With these allies we are about to fight Russia, the least vulnerable nation of the world. But suppose Russia should come to the conclusion that it would be more to her interest to be surrounded by weak republics than by strong monarchies; suppose she should discover that the partition of Poland was a blunder, and should restore that kingdom to its place in Europe. See how wide the frontier line of enmity would spread, how rapidly the area of our friendship would contract. If the Russ should be bold enough to adopt such a policy, it will be no question of taking Sebastopol from the land side, of beating the Cossacks on the Danube, of defeating the barbarians who are now perhaps advancing up the channel of the Oxus, or even battering Cronstadt and shelling St. Petersburg. We should have heaps of old thrones and crowns thrust upon us, and we should be bound to bear these precious relics back to the capitals whence they had been thrust. We should have to subjugate Italy, to conquer Germany, to force back Hungary to her slavery, to re-partition Poland, to reduce Macedonia, to over-run Asia Minor, perhaps destroy a republic in France, and still, to fight the Russians!

We have had princes for our allies: we may find that we have the nations for our enemies.

These may be distant and improbable eventualities: they certainly are not impossible contingencies.—*New Quarterly Review.*

THE BALTIC FLEET.

Imagine the effect of the broadside of the *Iron Duke*, throwing its ton of metal into another ship of war under canvass. Let us say, for instance, that the great three-decker can throw six broadsides in four minutes, or, in other words, that she can hurl six tons of iron shot in four minutes upon a given point in that brief space of time. It is evident that, if flesh and blood can be found to stand this sort of smashing, we know of no frames of wood and iron that can; and, as the “screw” can worm herself into any position most favourable for attack, every shot would tell, and the work of destruction must be done in a few minutes. There will be, as there always has been, great scope for personal daring, and much will depend upon physical superiority and courage; but the days of the old tactics are past, and weight of metal and good gunnery will, for the future, be the real agents to bring matters to a sharper and more decisive conclusion.

The power of bringing an enemy to close quarters,

and avoiding long chases, is one of the greatest advantages a “screw” fleet possesses, and is, moreover, well adapted to our peculiar bull-dog mode of fighting. Long shots and long chases are “Jack’s” abomination; he is at home when the fight is warm, sharp, and severe. But while estimating the probable consequences of the next naval encounter, we must not blind ourselves to the fact, that our “screws” are, up to this time, not only a novelty in war, but an experiment: they have not yet earned their “spurs.”

Without being alarmists, nay, in the full confidence and belief of certain triumph, we must not overlook the possible mischance, that the first severe sea fight may demonstrate the weakness of our “screws,” as at present constructed. It has not escaped the sagacity of naval engineers, that their sterns are much weakened by the loss of the “dead wood” taken away to allow for the working of the fan, and that an unlucky shot in this tender part may lay one of these bulwarks, a mere hulk, at the mercy of the foe; and that the machinery which has been found to be out of order and “whimsical” when being tested in the calm waters of the “measured mile” in Stokes Bay, may be as liable to fail us in the shock of battle and in the hurry of the chase or retreat. It is quite as well, then, that the second division of the Baltic fleet will add a few sturdy liners, depending on canvass alone, under the flutter of which our gallant tars have been accustomed to conquer.—*Bentley's Miscellany.*

HOW TO CONDUCT THE WAR.

The wonder with which we regard certain eventful changes of power and dominion would lessen, if we were to turn our eye from the course of brilliant achievements which attended them to discover the simple principle from which they set out, and on which they were founded. An established empire, with a gross revenue of about \$16,000,000 per annum, extending from the Black Sea to the Persian Gulf, and from the Mediterranean to the Indus and Iaxartes, is altogether overthrown, apparently in the fulness of its strength, in the course of a few years, and we follow the meteoric career of the conqueror in incredulous bewilderment. This, however, will disappear upon reflective examination. There must have been some sound principle on which Alexander anchored his attack on Persia, at first sight so rash. He had ascertained that there were several weaknesses in its system. The ascendant Persians were intolerant bigots. Xerxes had overthrown the ancient Chaldean religion, and many varieties of it; the Syrians, Jews, Babylonians, Egyptians, all hailed the tolerant liberator who bade them worship whatever gods they pleased, and who himself ostentatiously worshipped all gods indiscriminately, wherever he was. Considering this, our astonishment is reduced to juster dimensions, and is still further lessened by observing how he applied his perception of another weak point in their system by means of his foundation of Alexandria—a measure dictated by such profound penetration into futurity, that to this moment it is fulfilling the very object in relation to the trade between Europe and India at which he aimed.

After this fashion should we now wage war against Russia. There is a weak point in her social system—in that fix the harpoon—her own convulsive struggles for breath and space will do all you want until she flounders to your feet exhausted and powerless. Triumphs at Cronstadt, at Sebastopol, on the Danube, or in the Crimea, may bring about a peace, patched up by the intermediation of Austria and Prussia, but Russia will be left with the power to repair her losses, and to renew her attack in a few years upon European civilization and liberty. Our object should be to break her to pieces for ever. And this may certainly be done.

What can be simpler than for England and France to close the outlets of the Baltic and the Dardanelles for all time to come against Russia? What simpler than to inform Prussia, that if she does not co-operate she shall be similarly imprisoned? What can either of these Powers do to defend itself against such a blow? How can it even retaliate? Prussia will certainly not venture to try retaliation on the Rhine; and Russia, against our joint alliance with Sweden and Denmark in the Baltic, and with Turkey at Constantinople, would not be a lion in the toils, but an ass in a mill. This plan need not prevent England and France from assisting the Turks to clear the Principalities of the Russians, and from destroying any Russian ships that they can attack at an advantage, and it involves no perilous attacks on Sebastopol or Cronstadt, rife with unnecessary loss of blood and gold. We can purchase what we want in greater completeness, and at less cost, by refraining at present from enterprises of this commonplace order. Whatever of this sort is attempted should only be for the reason that it is an indispensable auxiliary to some comprehensive plan which aims at giving Russia a mortal blow. As to glory, neither France nor England want to add to their store.—*Correspondent of the Examiner.*

AN ANGLO-INDIAN-TURKISH ARMY.

To the Editor of the Times.

Sir,—Having observed in your paper of the 12th and 13th letters and remarks regarding the feasibility of employing Indian troops in Turkey at the present moment, I beg to offer a few observations on the subject. The bringing over an Indian army I look upon as unnecessary, and it would lead to enormous expense and many other inconveniences. Nothing can be better than the material found in Turkey for the formation of soldiers. The Turkish soldier has every requisite; he is brave, hardy beyond measure in supporting fatigue, cold, and hunger; is stout of body, sober, and obedient. Punishment in the army is almost unknown. The fault is in the organization, which is bad beyond belief. . . . What I propose is, that a contingent be raised of horse, foot, and guns, to be paid and officered by the British Government, and to serve with the British army; that officers from

the Indian army be selected to command each arm; that these officers be allowed to select their own officers, whether Queen's or Company's, to assist them; that, again, these officers be allowed to choose and bring with them a certain proportion of native commissioned and non-commissioned officers from the Indian army, and that the whole force be organized on the principle of the irregular regiments, horse and foot. These regiments have proved themselves equal, if not superior, to all others in the late wars in the East—for example, the Scinde Horse in Scinde and Punjab, Coke's Infantry and Lumsden's Guides in the Punjab, the Sikhs in Burmah, and the Goorkhas in the first Sutlej campaigns. By this organization of three British officers to a regiment, the remaining three per company or troop required might be selected from the Turkish soldiers as they enlisted, or even from such Turkish families of respectability as would be willing at once to take the place of officers under the British Government, and thus set the example of serving under Christians. The native officers from India might hold the places of native adjutants, &c., and be generally employed as required. Their example and good feeling towards their superior officers would, I doubt not, soon be taken up by the Turks. At first, of course, some difficulties would have to be overcome, but that they are to be overcome, I feel confident; and were such men as Jacob, Coke, Lumsden, Neville, Chamberlain, Malcolm, and many others of Indian fame, called upon to carry out this scheme, with power to reward, punish, and disburse regular pay, a force might be formed able to meet any of equal strength that could be brought against it.

THE CAVALRY FOR THE EAST.

To the Editor of the Times.

Sir,—Nearly two months have elapsed since the public were informed that it was resolved to send a cavalry force to the East, but not a single Dragoon has as yet left our shores.

One day we are told that they are to march across France; the next day we learn that they are to embark in transports, and sail across the Bay of Biscay. Then, again, the former arrangement is reverted to; and we hear of a handful of English horsemen, headed by Lord Cardigan, being about to proceed by rail to Paris, and indulge the Parisians in a miniature review, after which they are to resume the rail to Lyons, and drop down the Rhone thence to Marseilles in flat-bottomed boats.

Meanwhile, they are no nearer the scene of war than they were two months ago—the Guards are at Malta, and the Marines of our fleet are landed to do their duty at Varna.

All this must give, both to our allies and our enemies, but an indifferent opinion of the decision and vigour of our managers at home; and, if they possess any sense of the ludicrous, I feel certain that it will be severely taxed by a paragraph which has gone the round of the papers this morning, and which is evidently intended to appal our enemy.

It is gravely stated therein that a cutler of Limerick, one Mr. Lamprey, of Westmoreland-street, has been occupied during the last three days and nights in sharpening the swords of the 11th Hussars.

From two to three months must elapse before these gorgeous light horsemen can see an enemy; and it is well known that, were Mr. Lamprey to succeed in giving their weapons an edge capable of shaving off their own mustachios, the steel scabbards in which they carry them would render them as blunt as pokers in a week.

COMMON SENSE.

THE WAR WITH RUSSIA.

THE BALTIC—OUR FIRST PRIZES.

We have received from our correspondent—said the Times of Monday—at Copenhagen, a despatch dated yesterday, with the following gratifying and important intelligence:—

"The Tribune frigate has just arrived from Admiral Plumridge's squadron, having taken five Russian prizes and a number of prisoners."

We have confirmation, from various sources, of this intelligence, but no details. It appears that the capture was effected by Rear-Admiral Plumridge, with a division of English cruisers, and that the prizes were loaded with salt.

A later telegraphic despatch from Copenhagen is:—Admiral Napier's fleet of twenty-two ships of war has passed in front of the island of Bornholm.

A heavy cannonading was heard in that direction in the night of the 15th to the 16th.

The French ship-of-war the *Austerlitz* has rejoined Admiral Napier.

It was telegraphed, under date of Wednesday, that the *Dauntless*, 33, screw, Captain Ryder, one of the ships of Admiral Plumridge's advanced squadron, had returned to Kiøge Bay with the information that eighteen Russian ships of the line were seen in Sveaborg harbour, and that the *Imperieuse*, 51, screw, had chased a Russian corvette back to Sveaborg. Upon the reception of this intelligence the fleet, it is said, suddenly left Kiøge Bay.

We (*Plymouth Mail*) have been favoured with the following interesting extracts from a private letter of an officer of the *Duke of Wellington* to his friends in England:—

April 4. At noon to-day the Old Duke looked as if she was dressed for a holiday; she was covered with flags, forming a general signal to the fleet, which had anything but a holiday signification—it was the commander-in-chief's declaration of war, and ran, word for word, as follows:—

"Lads! War is declared, with a bold and numerous enemy to meet. Should they offer us battle, you will know what to do with them. Success depends on the precision and quickness of your fire. Also, lads! sharpen your cutlasses, and the day is your own."

The *Blenheim*, Captain the Hon. F. T. Pelham, immediately answered, "Ready and willing;" the *Neptune*, Capt. Smith, "Ready"—and every ship manned her rigging and gave three such cheers as are seldom heard in those waters. Ourselves and all the ship's company were then called upon deck, and Commodore Seymour read the signal to us; and the men were beginning to follow the example of the other ships, when the old Admiral came forward, and, leaning over the poop railing, said—

"Now, my lads! You have just heard what the commodore has said to you, and all I have to say is, you must be cool and collected—don't throw your shot away. A shot fired in the air or in the water is of no use. Make every one of them tell; we have quite a different system now to what we had in the last war. I have no doubt some of you have been in action before, but it will be different to what you have been accustomed to; but Admiral Chads showed you the other day that a shell bursting between decks is not so dangerous as you imagine, and if one comes on your deck, you must lie down, and it won't hurt you more than the common splinters of an ordinary action. Should we meet the Russian fleet at sea, as I dare say you well know how to dispose of them. We will now man the rigging, and give three cheers for the Queen, God bless her!"

The men rushed to the rigging and gave three times three for the Queen and one cheer more, and three for the commander-in-chief; this was followed by the rest of the fleet, and peal after peal came floating over the waters until the most distant sounded like the echo of the other. Hands were piped down—men under punishment were forgiven, and an extra glass of grog given each man at supper time. The flying squadron of paddle wheels, under Admiral Plumridge, left us immediately after for the edge of the ice. They are gone to watch the movements of the enemy, and to look after some ships laden with sulphur and lead, which are in "fix" in the ice. They will be prizes worth taking, if they turn up.

There has been some rough weather. One ship, the *Amphion*, 34, got aground off Drøge; and the *Neptune* has lost a man—a boat's crew sent after water getting benumbed by the intense cold.

The last accounts from Revel state, that the navigation at that port was not yet definitively open, as there was still a good deal of ice driving about in the sailing channel. There is no likelihood of a passage being open to St. Petersburg yet for several weeks; the ice is still firm in the Bay of Finland, and even in the Neva; though it was breaking up, it is not in motion. Liebau is the only port quite open.

In a Hamburg letter we read, the Emperor Nicholas, anticipating that the works erected on the coast of the islands of Åland would not be in a state to resist the attacks of the English fleet, had ordered all the troops which were in the forts to evacuate them promptly, carrying with them all the guns and military stores. Letters of the 6th, brought by the steamer from Stockholm, fully confirm this news, adding, that the Emperor had also ordered all the pilots and all men capable of bearing arms to emigrate to the mainland in Finland, and also to remove all vessels, large and small, boats, &c., to the ports on the mainland, and, in case that cannot be done, to sink and destroy them, so that not a vestige shall remain. The same system of national defence and voluntarily destruction has been organized, and will be followed, whatever may be the consequences, throughout the whole extent of the Russian shore, commencing from Helsingfors to Cronstadt, and on the other part to Sebastopol.

A letter from Berlin, of the 10th, in the *Post Ampt Gazette* of Frankfurt, says:—"The Emperor of Russia is to reside, during the war, alternately at Revel and St. Petersburg. The Grand Duke, heir presumptive to the throne, is to proceed to Helsingfors, and the Grand Duke Constantine will assume the command of a division of the Russian fleet, which, protected by 800 pieces of cannon, will cast anchor within the fortifications of the seven islands at Sveaborg. It is thought that the English fleet will first proceed to Libau, on the western coast of Courland, towards the Bay of Riga, to invest the three islands in front of that port, and that it will endeavour to destroy the fortifications of Revel. There are no men of war before Revel, for that town does not protect a fleet sufficiently."

A correspondent at Copenhagen writes:—"I cannot, of course, give you the *verba ipsissima* used by Admiral Napier on his visit to the King [of Denmark], which was both long and pleasant. But I shall not be far wrong if I assure you that it was a most important interview, in the course of which he asked, on behalf of England and France, considerable modifications in the evidently untenable position of Denmark, as to its passive neutrality. While acknowledging that the refusal to declare coals 'contraband of war' had excited the most friendly feelings, he gave it as his opinion that the time was now come when the whole neutrality must be considerably modified. It is said that the gallant admiral will make a similar declaration to the King of Sweden."

THE BLACK SEA.

On the 27th ult., the *Sidon*, *Firebrand*, and *Magellan* were despatched from the fleet at Kavarna, to ascertain if any attempts are being made by the Russians to throw in supplies to their troops, now that they have crossed the Danube, with orders to bring in any Russian vessels so engaged, or within Turkish waters. There is reason to believe the larger division of the fleet, telegraphed as having gone to Sebastopol, went to Odessa. In a letter from the latter port, of the 1st inst., we read:—"We have seen many French and English sails. They probably intend blockading us. Large masses of troops are being concentrated here: our garrison is at this moment 20,000 strong, and fresh men arrive every day from Bessarabia. We have made up our minds for the worst, and several families have retired inland. Trade is at an end, and prices ruinously high. The English consul-general was yesterday still here."

In another passage the writer gives a good reason why Odessa should be blockaded by the Allies:—"All the Russian troops in the Dobrukscha, which

may possibly amount to about 55,000 men with 120 guns, must be entirely victualled from this place, for the Dobrukscha, as far as fertility is concerned, may be not inaptly compared with a Puseta (waste) in Hungary. They say Tultsha and Isaktsha are both razed, but Matschin kept as it is, and Hirsova made an hospital of. They do not believe here that the army will push on to Silistria, but they do that Rasso-va will be taken, and that Trajan's Wall must be gained to secure the new acquisitions made by the army."

From Odessa itself we learn that everything there indicates care, anxiety, and apprehension. Trade is at a standstill, and credit has disappeared. Ships freighted with corn have been compelled to unload again, as no more is any longer suffered to quit the port. Every one is a seller, but there are no purchasers of anything to be found. The garrison was kept regularly up to 30,000 men. Enormous quantities of corn and provisions were being daily sent off to the army in the Dobrukscha. The Russian fleet was lying *perdu*, but in full force, at Sebastopol. All the English and French vessels had received notice to clear away as soon as possible, as there was some fear of their crews rising upon and mastering those of the Russian vessels in that port. There were about 200 European trading vessels in the harbour, the majority of which were English, French, Spanish, and Sardinian craft.

In a Constantinople letter of the 25th, published at Malta, we read:—"The English steamer *Sampson*, which had been sounding on the coast of Circassia, returned on the 21st, bringing tidings of a complete victory gained by the Circassians over the Russians. Early in March the Circassians, provided with arms and ammunition, attacked the Russians, and, after a severely contested battle, drove them into the castles on the coast. These castles were surrounded and repeatedly attacked during four continuous days. Finally the Russians, fearing to be cut to pieces, blew up their powder magazines, and sought shelter in ships."

"The captain of the *Sampson* reports, that when some Russians had abandoned two block-houses situated on a hill, the Circassians threw themselves on them and cut the whole to pieces. The same steamer had spoken with a Russian vessel proceeding to Sebastopol, laden with fugitive soldiers. The loss of the Russians had been considerable. The coast of Circassia is at present free from the enemy."

"Two hundred and sixty-seven vessels arrived this day from the Black Sea, only four of which were in ballast."

THE SEAT OF WAR IN ASIA.

Accounts from Erzeroum state that Zarif Pasha, general-in-chief of the army of Anatolia, had arrived at Kars on the 6th of March, and had been received with the greatest enthusiasm. The army was being continually supplied with money, ammunition, and clothes, so that the ensuing campaign would open under better auspices than that which closed so disastrously in December. Artillery was about to be despatched as soon as the state of the roads would allow it; but with snow ten feet deep in the valleys, and the face of the country a mass of mud and melting ice, it was impossible to think of military operations. The reconstruction and disciplining of the army still continued under Kourschid Pasha (Guyon), and it was thought probable that his present limited powers would be extended. It is stated that the whole Russian army is concentrated at Gumri (Alexandropol), which is being rendered a place of great strength, and should the Russians confine themselves to defensive warfare in this quarter, the capture of Gumri must precede all attempts at aggressive movements on the part of the Ottoman commander. The voluntary service of the Arab and Kurdish tribes is being continually offered for the defence of the empire and the faith. The wild leaders of these bands, which number from thirty or forty to upwards of 500 horsemen, are solicitous to enrol their followers in the armies of the Danube and the Caucasus. But accounts from both seats of war unite in representing these irregular horsemen as worse than useless. The Bashis-Bazouks, it is said, will not face the enemy, and can only be useful in pursuit, while their exactions and cruelties drive the peasantry to madness, and stir up a very dangerous feeling against the army in every village they pass through.

THE GREEK INSURRECTION.

The Times correspondent at Athens concludes as follows a long letter, descriptive of the arts by which the Court and Russian party in Greece have got up the insurrection:—

I must repeat again and again what I said in former letters, that not only do the populations of Epirus and Thessaly, for whose benefit the Greek patriots (?) preterred to have come, not join, but, on the contrary, they take refuge with the Turks, leaving their villages and driving away their flocks and cattle. I saw yesterday a letter from a village not far from Arta, where the people state that one dinner of the patriots consumed their whole stock of corn. To-day her Majesty's steamer *Highflyer*, which had gone from here to Volo several days ago, brings news of the same kind. Nowhere is there any trace of agitation in the population of Thessaly, except where the insurgents are present in force, and thus oblige the people to take part in order to save themselves. The Turks, on the other hand, behave very well; they send their irregulars home, and substitute regulars. 4,000 men of the Sultan's Guard have lately arrived in Volo, and more are expected.

In conclusion, I must refer to the tardy act of justice which, after several years, has restored General Sir Richard Church to the post of General-in-Chief of the whole Hellenic army, which he had gained and occupied on the field of battle before even the kingdom of Greece existed.

The latest news from the seat of insurrection in South Albania are to the 4th instant. It is a fact that the insurgents have been attacked and defeated by the Turks several times; they have lost also their position at Janina. Zervas is scouring the Pindus and beating

up volunteers, whom he joins to his corps, but he has neither arms, nor ammunition, nor provisions.
The Anglo-French steamers on the Thessalian coast will seize all vessels carrying war ammunition to the Greek insurgents. Passengers on board Ionian vessels must be provided with regular passports.

THE DANUBE.

Correspondence from Bucharest of the 8th instant, to some extent explains the previous default of news from the Russian side of the Danube since the entrance of the Czar's troops into the Dobruja. Their difficulties only began with the passage. The troops are limited to slow and weary movements, through want of roads and marshy ground, dragging with them provisions and stores of all kinds. To the 7th instant Mustapha Pasha was master of Tschernawoda and Kustendje to the north of Trajan's Wall, and stood with his main force of 30,000 at Karass, on the south side of that defence, and about midway between the Danube and the Black Sea. Omar Pasha had been with him, and a division of the fleets were supporting his right wing. The Russians had appeared before both Tschernawoda and Kustendje, but in very small force, with scarcely more than patrols of Cossacks. No anxiety was felt at Varna, where on the 28th a Turkish brigade, 5,000 strong, had been landed. Between Rassoia and Silistria several smart encounters had taken place. It was believed Omar Pasha would not attack before the arrival of the auxiliaries in his rear.

Mercantile letters from Bucharest of the 4th instant mention that the Russians made on the 2nd a reconnaissance in the direction of Berlik, and marched from there along the road down the river-side towards the entrenchments close to Rassoia. Vigorously attacked by the Turks, they retreated to Berlik, fighting all the way, and from there back to the farther bank of the river. The Russian column was about 800 strong, and was supported by two gun-boats.

At Kalarash, where the Russians are preparing to cross into Bulgaria, the Turks succeeded, on the 1st instant, in totally destroying a bridge equipage, which the Russians had brought up to throw across the Danube. A letter from Bucharest, of the 4th, states that the contest which has been going on near Kalarash ever since the 28th was not then decided. Below Silistria, but towards Rassoia, the Turks had thrown up several batteries, which for some days past had answered the Russian batteries opposite with a very hot fire. Those guns must be silenced before the Russians could set about effecting the passage. In Silistria the garrison had fully prepared for every event. Since the 28th ult., all the gates had been kept shut and barricaded, one gate alone excepted, through which, in case of need, the guns planted along the strand could be brought into the fortress.

The *Oest Deutsche Post* learns, from the seat of war, that the *tete-du-pont* at Chernaoda has been taken by storm. 8,000 Russians attempted to storm Rassoia, but were repulsed. On the 2nd of April the attack was renewed. 7,500 men have been landed at Varna. The *Ironstadt Satellite*, of the 4th, announces the passage of the Danube at Simnitsa by the Turks on the 27th of March. "There is a report that the Turks are already in Bucharest." It is further rumoured that the Turks have taken Turna (opposite Nicopolis), and are advancing in the rear of the Russians, who are before Kalafat.

The news from the seat of war in Little Wallachia comes down to the 8th. The two army corps have not left their positions of mutual observation. Both sides were ready for action.

The *Daily News* correspondent writes from Widdin, on the 31st ult. :—

I have the best authority for believing that the Turks will advance from Kalafat in ten or twelve days, if the weather continues fine. They are only waiting for the grass to spring, that they may have forage for their horses, as the Russians have burned up all the hay; and, indeed, destroyed almost everything in Lesser Wallachia. Kalafat and the neighbourhood yields nothing to the Turkish army, who derive all their supplies from Widdin. While we procure here meats in abundance—beef at a lb. and fresh pork at 1½d. per lb., eggs, potatoes, carrots, parsnips, and the finest shad—you can scarcely find a vegetable on the Russian side between Kalafat and Krajova, except a few onions. This I have from an eye-witness. Meantime the country (Bulgaria) seems inexhaustible, and immense supplies of hay, fifty or sixty loads in a row, often pass under my window. Rice, maize, meal, and wheat are still abundant, and yet I saw a ridiculous statement the other day that the land was exhausted. Prices have not risen since the last account, in which I gave you some of the details. We still buy a quart of wine for a penny.

ADDRESSES OF THE Czar TO HIS COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF.

The *Journal of St. Petersburg* publishes in its number of March 24 (April 5), two communications addressed by the Emperor of Russia, one to Prince Woronzoff, the other to Prince Gortschakoff. In the first, the Czar expresses to Prince Woronzoff his gratitude for the brilliant services rendered by that officer while commander-in-chief of the army of the Caucasus for a space of nine years. His Majesty regrets that the Prince's state of health compels him to quit this command for a brief interval, and expresses the desire of his being enabled speedily to resume it.

The second, to Prince Gortschakoff, is thus worded :—
Prince Michael Dmitrievitch !—By the brilliant passage of the Danube, effected on the 11th of this month, you have crowned the Russian arms with new glory. The troops under your personal command having effected at three points the passage on the right bank of this river, have carried by storm several redoubts of the enemy. Disturbed by our bold attack, the Turks fled and abandoned to us, without striking a blow in their defence, the fortresses of Tula and Matchin, defended by garrisons of 15,000 men. Seeing in this exploit an earnest of our future successes against the enemies of sacred religion and our country, I charge you to express to our brave troops, as also to their gallant leaders, my most sincere gratitude. In considering upon you at the same time, as a testimony of my heartfelt gratitude for your dis-

tinged services, my portrait, encased with diamonds, that it may be worn at the button-hole. I remain invariably your affectionate
(Signed)
S. Petersburg, March 21, 1854.
NICHOLAS.

ANGLO-FRENCH PREPARATIONS.

Copies of an offensive and defensive treaty with England, in five articles, were exchanged at Paris on Sunday.

Prince Napoleon left Marseilles on Saturday, for Toulon, accompanied by Vely Pacha, the Ambassador of Turkey. A speech made by the Prince at Marseilles has produced a great sensation. He declared that the Black Sea should be open and free for all, and that commerce should be the gainer by victory. He embarked for Constantinople on Monday.

It is stated that a resolution was adopted at the last Cabinet Council in Paris, for the formation of a fifth division of the expeditionary army, to be placed under the command of General Repault. The total of the expeditionary force to the East will not, it is said, be limited to 50,000 men. There is a probability that, before the war is brought to an end, it will be augmented to more than 100,000, some think to 150,000. 35,000 have already left, that is, about that number are already at sea from France and Algeria, and the continued movement of troops in the direction of the respective ports would show that much more than 50,000 men are intended to act in Turkey. It is thought that no movement will be made from Gallipoli until the allied troops are assembled there in opposing numbers, and then they will probably proceed towards Adrianople.

The fleet, under Admiral Parroval-Deschene, sailed on Wednesday, from Brest, for the Baltic, to join the English squadron under Admiral Napier. On the 9th instant, Admiral Trehouart, the Maritime Prefect, passed in review the companies of the first and second regiments of the Marine Infantry, which were to form part of the expeditionary force going to the Baltic, and, after the review, addressed them as follows :—

Officers and Non-commissioned Officers of the 1st and 2nd regiments of Marine—On Tuesday, under the command of Colonel Fieron, you will form an expeditionary corps, which will take place in the midst of our brave seamen in the vessels composing the Baltic squadron. The courage and devotedness which you have already shown on many occasions form a sure guarantee that you will worthily support the honour of the French flag. The Emperor, in selecting you amongst so many brave men to go and fight, has given you a marked proof of his high confidence. You ought to be proud of it, and, above all grateful : that gratitude you are going to express here with me in shouting "Vive l'Empereur!"

Rear-Admiral Boxer, accompanied by his flag-lieutenant and Mr. Brown of the Admiralty, passed through Paris this morning, on their way to Constantinople. They are in such haste that they did not go to any hotel, but went straight from one railway to the other.

The main body of the British infantry have now left Malta and the other ports of rendezvous for the seat of war, and, with the exception of the cavalry, will have arrived in Turkey before their commander-in-chief. The 77th, 49th, 33rd, 41st, 4th, 47th, and 50th regiments had left Malta between the 9th and 12th, in the *Himalaya*, the *Indus*, the *Cambridge*, the *Bow*, and various transports, some of which were towed by the larger steamers. The French land force of 45,000 men is rapidly hastening to Gallipoli, not a day elapsing without its French transport passing Malta.

Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh Henry Rose, C.B., has received the appointment of her Majesty's military commissioner to the French expeditionary army in the East. Colonel Rose, it will be remembered, was acting as charge d'affaires of her Majesty at Constantinople, in the absence of the ambassador, when the present crisis arose with the Mehschikoff mission to Turkey. He has passed a large portion of his career in the East, having been sent to Syria in 1840 with the British officers employed there, and afterwards attached to the staff of Omar Pasha, with the rank of deputy adjutant-general. He was wounded in the affair of cavalry, January 15th, 1841. He was afterwards appointed to the command of the detachments. When consul-general in Syria, he rescued the Prince of Lebanon and others from the Druses.

A British man-of-war has been sent from Rio into the Pacific to look after the Russian frigate which was lately at that port, but which has disappeared.

The workmen in the Royal Arsenal were at work all day on Good Friday, to forward the munitions of war required for service in the East. While some of them were employed in making rockets, one of these missiles exploded and ignited a portion of the composition, and although the roof of the shed was blown off and a portion of one of the sides thrown down, none of the men were injured to any dangerous extent, having been only blown some distance from the positions in which they were at work.

The *Northern Whig* says: We have authority for stating that an official inspection will be made immediately into the defensive capabilities of the existing fortifications in Belfast Lough, with a view of ascertaining whether the enlargement of present batteries, and the erection of new ones may be required.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

Prince Barolay de Tolly proceeds to London on a special mission.

Lord Stratford has addressed to the British Consuls a circular condemning the Greek insurrection.

The Greeks in Manchester are said to have subscribed £10,000 towards supporting the insurrection in Turkey. Those in London and Liverpool are also reported to have raised funds.

A decree of the Senate of Hamburg, of the 10th, prohibits the export of articles contraband of war. Similar decrees have been issued at Lubeck and Bremen.

Lord Howden has addressed a note to the Spanish Government requiring that it shall close its ports

against Russian privateers, if Russia issues letters of marque.

There are about 28,000 Greeks in Pera and Galata alone, and of these there are but 5,000 women and children. The Greeks from the kingdom resident here are chiefly labourers, tradesmen, clerks, &c. They are all warned to depart within a certain time.

Hanover goes most decidedly with England, and therefore is ready to support Austria against Prussia, should the Eastern question come before the Federal Diet. All the secondary and minor German Governments, except Bavaria, are of the same mind, and will bring the subject before the Diet, should not Prussia shortly agree to abandon its neutrality.

The offer of a Polish legion to the British Government having been made in a letter from Francis Stawiariski, major, Polish army, to the Earl of Aberdeen, the First Lord of the Treasury replies through his Secretary, that the letter has been referred for the consideration of the Secretary of State for War and the Colonies.

According to the *Austrian Lloyd*, the recent military measures of Russia, as regards discharged soldiers, will procure her a reserve of 150,000 men. These men are to be formed into corps for garrison service. As to the demi-invalids, who have also been called on to serve, they are, it is said, to be sent to the theatre of war principally to occupy fortresses. The Czar was about to consent to the organisation of free corps in the different provinces; the war department had drawn up a plan on the subject.

A correspondent at Widdin says it is interesting to notice the curiosity of the Turks as to the strangers who present themselves to their observation in the streets. If an Englishman or a Frenchman pass, one Turk says to the other, as they sit and smoke, sip their coffee, or chat in the open shops, *Kim bu Efendi?* "Who is that gentleman?" The other replies, *Wallah bilmem*, "As Allah lives, I cannot tell;" but he goes on, *Bizim kardash, Ingles*. "They are our friends, English." The other says, thankfully, *Eo, Allah, rouses-out Allah Akbar! Mash Allah!* "Allah, bless him! Allah is great. Praise Allah!"

Court, Personal, and Official News.

The Queen, Prince Albert, and their family, are spending Easter at Windsor. On Maunday Thursday the usual royal gifts were distributed.

Her Majesty and Prince Albert have forwarded to Mr. Alfred Eames, the Secretary of the Royal Naval School, at New Cross, five hundred pounds, to constitute the Prince of Wales a life governor, which confers upon his Royal Highness, during his life, the privilege of always having one pupil in the school for gratuitous board and education—such pupils being the sons of naval or marine officers.

Mr. Holford, the rich merchant, who long resided in the Regent's Park, died on the 9th of April, and has left his large fortune to the Prince of Wales. The other day we found a Scotchman, Sir Andrew Wylie, bequeathing about a million sterling to the Czar; we now have another wealthy man (an American, we believe) also selecting a royal legatee, but of a far more worthy stock.

The Lord Mayor gave the customary Easter banquet on Monday evening. Lord John Russell, Lord Palmerston, and Sir Hamilton Seymour, were the only political personages present. Lord John, in the course of a short speech, deprecated hasty criticism of our military and naval operations, assuring the company that our gallant commanders were, one and all, intent on doing the best service to their country. Sir H. Seymour was listened to with much interest, but said nothing more important than this :—"Nothing could be more inexact than the accounts sent to the rest of Europe by Russia. As regarded the provinces of Turkey, it was stated that the Greek Church suffered great persecution; that churches were burnt and priests killed. He attempted to see something of all this, but he could never find any traces of it. If he had said anything offensive, or anything which might seem tinged with asperity, he hoped he might be excused; for, no doubt, most of the present company had felt the annoyance and irritation caused by the loss of a carpet bag or an umbrella, and would be willing to make allowance for a poor traveller who had left the whole of his luggage behind." (Laughter and cheers.)

Baron Pannascher is quite recovered from his long illness, and will take his seat on the bench at the opening of Easter Term.

Mr. Henry Unwin Addington has resigned his office of Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, which he has held since March 4, 1842. Mr. Addington entered the service of the Foreign Office as far back as 1807, and is succeeded, as permanent Under-Secretary, by Mr. Edmond Hamond.

On Saturday, the "five bills" of the Attorney-General to disfranchise certain voters in Canterbury, Cambridge, Kingston-upon-Hull, Maidon, and Barnstable, were printed. The names of the voters are set forth in the bills, and it is declared, that they were proved to have been guilty of bribery before the late Commissions. Therefore it is declared, that they shall "for ever be disabled to vote in any election of any member or members" for the particular borough named by the bill.

Some correspondence has taken place respecting the seizure of certain vessels ordered by the Russian Government to be built by Mr. Pitcher, of Northfleet, from which it appears that Mr. Pitcher was entirely blameless.

A foreign vessel, lying at the quay-side in the Tyne, and having on board munitions of war, consisting of shot, has been seized by Mr. Sanders, landing-waiter at the Custom-house.

At a meeting of the Court of Directors of the East

India Company, on Wednesday, thanks were unanimously voted to Mr. Russell Ellice, Chairman, and Major Oliphant, Deputy Chairman, for their great application and attention to the affairs of the Company during the past year.

A second meeting of the Court was held on Thursday; when Major Oliphant was chosen Chairman of the Court of Directors, and Mr. Elliot Macnaghten Deputy Chairman.

The three new Directors of the East India Company, nominated by the Crown, in accordance with the provisions of the India Act of last session, are Lieutenant-General Sir George Pollock, Mr. John Pollard Willoughby, and Sir Frederick Currie.

By the death of General Mercer Henderson the Colonelcy of the Sixty-eighth Regiment is at the disposal of Lord Hardinge; and by the death of Sir Richard Armstrong, that of the Thirty-second. The first, it is stated, will be given to Major-General Darling; the second to Sir Willoughby Cotton, now Colonel of the Ninety-eighth. The last-named regiment will be bestowed upon Sir William Herries.

Sir Alexander Cockburn was re-elected for Southampton, on Wednesday, without opposition. The Bristol Town Council have reduced the salary of the Recorder, Sir Alexander's new office, from £700 to £300 a year.

Mr. Edward Romilly, one of the commissioners of the Audit Board since 1836, has been appointed chairman of the Board, *vice* Sir William Herries, resigned.

It is probable that Mr. Phinn, Member for Bath, will succeed Mr. Justice Crowder, as counsel to the Admiralty.

Under the 356th section of the Customs Consolidation Act of the last session of Parliament, the Board of Customs have caused the general orders and minutes issued by them in the year 1853 for the regulation of trade, &c., to be printed in a collected form. Copies of these orders can be had by merchants, and others interested and concerned, on application to the store-keeper at the Custom-house in Thames-street, or of the collectors and controllers of the Customs at the several outports throughout the United Kingdom.

Government has decided to propose a grant of £7,000 for the purchase of a site for the Scottish Industrial Museum to be established at Edinburgh. The site fixed on is a piece of ground behind the College, at present occupied by a chapel and one of the hospitals. The College Museum will be ceded by the Town-Council to the new Museum, and the whole placed under the superintendence of the Board of Trade.

The Horse Guards have made a tardy step in the way of justice, by placing the author of the "Corn Law Catechism" on the list of Colonels, from which he had been excluded in 1846 by an official manoeuvre. But do they not mean to restore him to his proper place in the list, which is at the head of all the Colonels of the 9th of November, 1846; or is it to remain on record, that an officer was put at the bottom of the list, and lost eight years' rank and standing, for having in and out of Parliament assisted in obtaining Free Trade for the country?—*Daily News*.

A vacancy has occurred in Queenhithe Ward, in consequence of the death of James Kinnersley Hooper, Esq., the alderman of that ward, who died on Monday evening. The deceased gentleman was elected in 1840, served the office of Sheriff in 1842, and filled the civic chair in 1847.

Law and Police Intelligence.

The Edinburgh Court of Justiciary has been engaged for three days in the trial of William Smith, surgeon, lately residing at Kirkton, or Old Village of St. Fergus, in the north of Aberdeenshire, for the murder of William M'Donald, farm servant, at Burnside, parish of St. Fergus, on Saturday, the 19th of November last. The prisoner had been placed at the bar on the 13th of March last, and the trial proceeded for one day, when it was interrupted by the illness of a jurymen. The fact that the prisoner had temporarily insured the life of the deceased for the sum of £2,000, and that the policy for one-half of the sum was within a few days of expiring when the deceased was found dead, rendered the case one of unusual interest. The Lord Justice Clerk, in charging the jury, said, if this were a case of murder, according to the indictment, it was certainly the most atrocious one that was ever brought before that court. At an early period of the trial, however, he had taken up the impression, that, unless there were more evidence brought than appeared likely, there was not enough to infer the guilt of the prisoner, or to substantiate the fact that a murder had been committed. Since hearing the whole case, that impression had been strengthened and confirmed. The jury, after an absence of about ten minutes, returned into court with a verdict of "Not proven," by a majority. The Lord Justice Clerk asked whether the difference of opinion was as to "Not proven" or "Not guilty;" to which the foreman replied that it was between "Guilty" and "Not proven." On the return of the verdict a slight hiss from the audience was heard, and on the breaking up of the court similar expressions of feeling were given vent to; while the retirement of the prisoner, who, for his own protection, was kept inside the building for some time, was the signal for another burst of hissing more loud than before. Large crowds of people thronged the entrance to the court during the whole day, and awaited the liberation of Smith; but he was sent off quietly by another door.

Mr. Charles James Mathews, the lessee of the Lyceum Theatre, has been adjudicated a bankrupt, and was gazetted on Tuesday. The petitioning creditor is Mr. Henry Lindus, described as a gentleman, of 6, Claremont-place, Burton-crescent. The petition

was filed on the 7th inst., and the adjudication was made on the same day, Mr. Mathews appearing and surrendering. The description of Mr. Mathews in the petition is a somewhat curious one. He is described as "of the Lyceum Theatre, Strand, in the county of Middlesex, and manager of the said theatre, bookseller, and commission agent." The amount of liabilities at present can only be very vaguely estimated. Mr. Austin, the messenger under the bankruptcy, has taken possession of the furniture and effects at Gore Lodge, Brompton, the residence of Mr. Mathews; but it is said there is some adverse claim in the form of a mortgage for £1,000.

The foreman of Mr. Hancock's silver manufactory, in Brunton-street, was indicted at the Middlesex Sessions, for having stolen 2,000 ounces of silver, value £500. In the course of the case it came out that a short time ago a boy in Mr. Hancock's service was convicted, on the prisoner's evidence, of stealing a small quantity of silver from the manufactory. The jury found the prisoner guilty of stealing the waste and sweepings, which he had sold to a refiner. The Assistant-Judge said he thought this a safe verdict, but there could be no doubt of the prisoner's entire guilt. He then sentenced the prisoner to be kept in penal servitude for four years.

At Guildhall, on Saturday, in consequence of a previous arrangement, Mr. Meeking attended before Sir R. W. Carden to give a full explanation relative to the detention of a lady at his shop on Holborn-hill, on the charge of having taken sovereigns belonging to another customer from the counter. After some inquiries had been gone into, Sir R. W. Carden said, after that, he thought a most ample public apology was due from Mr. Meeking to both the ladies. He had inflicted a most grievous injury upon Mrs. Finch, the lady detained, and ought to have made a personal apology in the most ample terms immediately he discovered the mistake that had been made. He (the Alderman) did not impute dishonesty to the young man who had mislaid the sovereigns; but, to say the least of it was very great negligence.

At the Mansion-house, Moses Moses, a "general dealer," living in Spitalfields, has been examined upon a charge of having a great quantity of stolen property in his possession. One charge involved the theft of a great bale of wool; another, the theft of a portmanteau from a cab. Other charges, involving property of the value of many hundred pounds, will be gone into. It is said that a wagon would hardly contain the property seized by the police at the prisoner's house, and already identified as the produce of recent burglaries and robberies, including, in the former class, three of leather in Bermondsey, three of plush in the vicinity of Blackfriars, one of cloth in Gresham-street; in the latter class, one of jewellery from a brougham in the Strand, and one of alpacas in London-wall. A vast number of articles, consisting of pieces of scarlet damask, black and crimson cloth, doeskin, silver mustard pots, gold rings, &c., have not been identified.

At the Marlborough-street Court, John Joy, "an elderly man of highly respectable appearance," has been committed for trial, charged with having obtained money from various benevolent persons under fraudulent pretences. It appeared that the prisoner had been getting money from various persons of distinction, by representing himself to be collector to the Hospital for Consumption at Brompton, and several other charities. From Lady Charlotte Denison, Countess Grey, and Lady Ashburnham, he had obtained in all nine guineas.

At Bow-street, a tailor stands charged with stealing a picture belonging to the landlord of the Ship Tavern, in Essex-street, Strand. The prisoner walked into the house, proceeded up stairs, took down the picture from a room on the first floor, placed it under his waistcoat, and walked out again. The barman, seeing the peculiar form of the stranger's breast, considered he had got a "strait waistcoat," and told his master that he thought the man must have escaped from a lunatic asylum, especially as he had entered the house and gone out again without ordering anything. The master, having other suspicions, followed the prisoner into the Strand, where the latter dropped upon his knees, produced the picture from under his clothes, and implored forgiveness for the sake of his starving wife and children. The prisoner repeated his prayer for mercy to the magistrate, and said "it was all owing to his drunken habits."

Mr. Joseph Colwell, a respectable-looking man, of enormous size, upwards of six feet high, and weighing upwards of twenty-two stone, was summoned to the Lambeth police-court by the driver of a hackney cab, for a sixpence balance of fare due to him for the hire of his carriage. Mr. Elliott to defendant: What is your answer to the complaint? Mr. Colwell: The fact, sir, is, that from my size I find it extremely difficult to get a cabman to carry me. (Laughter.) When I call them, they pretend not to hear me, or they are engaged, or they are going to their tea, or they are going home, or what not, so that unless there is a policeman handy, or that I step into a friend's house, and send for a cab, there is no chance of getting one; but when I do get them, I am sometimes even with them, by keeping them as near to the fifteen minutes as possible, but take care it never reaches the fifteen minutes.—In the case on which he had been summoned, his witness was unable to prove that the time did not exceed fifteen minutes; and the gentleman whose corpulence is so inconvenient found his cunning also expensive.

A singular instance of the scrupulousness of English justice has been afforded. At the late Central Criminal Sessions, five persons, named Frederick Norris, *alias* Conner, Eliza Bacon, Thomas Brunton, Richard Hilton, and Samuel Bacon, were convicted of the charge of breaking into and stealing from the house of Mr. Harvey, No. 11, Carter-street, Walworth, £1,631 in gold, and £150 in bank notes. The judge before whom

the prisoners had been tried (Mr. Baron Martin) at the time fully acquiesced in the justice of the verdict, and sentenced Norris to transportation for life, and the other prisoners to four years penal service each. His lordship, however, seemed subsequently to have some misgivings as to the absolute guilt of the three prisoners, Hilton, Brunton, and Samuel Bacon, and in consequence, sent for Mr. Superintendent Lund and Sergeant Quinncar, who had the investigation of the robbery. These officers were of opinion, that though the three prisoners had been aware of the intention to commit the robbery, and had, in fact, been privy to an attempt to break into the house of the prosecutor on another evening, yet that neither of them had been present on the following night, when the robbery had been effected by Norris and two other persons, nor had they, as far as the officers had been able to learn, a single shilling of the large sum stolen. His lordship observed that this was his own opinion, and he should have been much better pleased if the jury had acquitted them; and soon after this an order was received at Newgate to discharge the three prisoners on entering into their own recognisances to surrender and serve their four years' imprisonment, if called upon. The prisoners accordingly entered into the required bail and were set at liberty. The two persons who assisted Norris in effecting the robbery, and who are known to have the lion's share of the plunder, are still at large, and there does not appear to be a single tittle of legal evidence to fix them with a participation in the offence.

A distressing circumstance has occurred in Lambeth: Mrs. Catherine Saville, a respectable middle-aged woman, left her home on Saturday morning and proceeded to her husband's place of business in the city, to tell him that she had killed their infant son. The husband hoped, though his wife had for some days exhibited symptoms of aberration of mind, that she was not guilty of the act, but at once hurried home, when he unfortunately found that her story was true. The servant, going up stairs during her mistress's absence, found the poor babe lying with its face in a pan of water, dead. Her cries alarmed the neighbours, and the police arrested the mother. When asked by the magistrate what she had to say, she, with a smile on her countenance, replied—"I wish to speak nothing but the truth. I knew that the child had been very much neglected, and I thought it had better die and go to Heaven at once. I was very comfortable, and had everything I wanted." The magistrate gave directions that she should be at once taken to Horse-monger-lane gaol, that she might be carefully looked after by the medical gentleman there.

A person named George Townly Balfour Darling, well known in the Dublin police-offices, has been tried in the Commission Court, on a charge of obtaining money under false pretences from a Mr. Bowyer, to whom he undertook to furnish legal documents that would entitle him to some of the property of the convict William Burke Kirwan. The prisoner was convicted, and sentenced to four years' penal servitude.

Miscellaneous News.

An Austrian forty-gun screw steam-frigate, the *Radecky*, was launched on Thursday, at Northam, on the Itchin, near Southampton. She is nearly 2,000 tons burden, and will carry heavy metal.

The London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway, was opened to the public from London to Tilbury on Thursday. Steamboats carry passengers across the river to Gravesend. Trains start from Fenchurch-street and from Bishopsgate.

Two powerful orations were delivered by Mr. J. B. Gough, the distinguished temperance advocate, in the New Chapel, Chester-street, Wrexham, on the evenings of Wednesday and Thursday in last week. The attendance on both evenings was very good, the interest of the first evening being considerably enhanced by the fact that the chair was taken by John Bright, Esq., M.P., who spoke for a short time both before and after the lecture.

The Irish papers report a curious incident:—the Russian sailors on board the ship Norden, at Waterford, mutinied against their captain: some of them were brought before the magistrates. They said that the ship, having been sold to a British merchant, they had flung off their Russian allegiance, and would fight for England. For their assault, however, on the captain, they got two days' imprisonment, after which they left for London.

Two persons besides, the driver, killed on the spot, have died from injuries received by a London and North-Western train running off the line between Mossley and Staleybridge on Tuesday. They are Mr. Abram Scheops, a German, residing at Manchester, who was a passenger in the train; and Thomas Hellam, of Leeds, the stoker. Mr. Scheops leaves a widow and six children, and Hellam a widow and four children.

Manchester is said to be perfectly swarming with thieves at the present moment. The police state that they never knew so many, from all parts of the country, in the city, as are crowded there at the present time; yet there are comparatively few robberies and offences against the law. The principal reason of this great influx is said to be that the police and magistrates of other places "vagrant" them (or send them to prison as "rogues and vagabonds"), whilst in Manchester the magistrates exhibit a tenderness of conscience as regards the liberty of the subject, which makes it a city of refuge to which such characters are glad to fly.

A tunnel accident has occurred on the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway. A heavy coal train entered the Claborough tunnel, followed by a light goods train. The steam of the first seems to have

prevented the driver of the second from seeing what was before him. The goods train ran into the coal train; the driver of the former was killed, and his stoker was dreadfully lacerated. The guard's van of the coal train was smashed: the guard had left it to make signal to the second train. The stoker, very badly scalded, has since died. A coroner's jury pronounced a verdict of "Accidental death;" but added—"It appears to the jury, from the evidence of the servants employed on the line, that it is the duty of the directors to have proper signalmen at each end of the Clarendon tunnel for the safety of persons travelling on the line."

M. Kossuth has addressed a letter to a friend in Boston, expressing his regret at the recall by the American Senate of Mr. Sanders from the consulate in London. In the course of his letter M. Kossuth observes, that "it has become apparent that the political situation of Europe will soon reach a crisis where a renewal of the struggle of freedom against oppression is near and unavoidable. When I left America, I bequeathed the seed which I had sown, for raising up sympathy for the liberty of Europe, especially to the nursing of the German citizens of America; for it is they who combine the republican principles of their new home with love for the old Fatherland; and the free future of the old dear Fatherland is a solidarity with the future of the other nationalities of Europe. We have now arrived at that critical period predicted by me, when this future is to be decided for centuries to come. One grain more thrown into the scale may decide it."

Mr John Macpherson, of Heath Cottage, near Inverness, has perished by accident at Craigie Bridge. He was returning in a phaeton from visiting parish-schools, Dr. Macdonald accompanying him. When approaching the bridge and going down hill, the horse increased his pace, and dragged the phaeton against a stone at the corner of the bridge. The shock threw Dr. Macdonald out upon the road on one side, and Mr. Macpherson over the parapet of the bridge on the other. The place is frightfully dangerous. The descent from the road is some forty feet, and jagged rocks protrude on either side of the stream. Mr. Macpherson was got out on the other side of the bridge from that on which he fell. Both legs and both arms had been fractured, and there was a serious contusion over one of the eyebrows. He survived only a quarter of an hour. Dr. Macdonald escaped almost unhurt.

At a full meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, last week, Sir Roderick Murchison in the chair, Dr. Buist read a paper "on the Physical Geography of the Red Sea," describing its depth, tides, extent of evaporation, and coasts. The Red Sea is 1,280 miles long, its maximum breadth nearly 200 miles, its greatest depth 400 fathoms, its cubic contents 800,000 miles. Dr. Buist remarked, "that though the Red Sea is traversed every week by scores of Englishmen, and though vessels of the Indian navy are constantly cruising about in it, or lying at Suez or at Aden, we know less of its physical geography than we do of that of Siberia, the Ural mountains, or some portions of the Arctic regions; and while the wilds of South America are carefully explored, a tract of vast importance, associated as it is in our minds with some of the most wonderful events in sacred history, remains utterly neglected at our doors." Sir Roderick Murchison, thanking Dr. Buist for his paper, expressed a hope that he might be employed in a special natural history survey of the Red Sea.

At a meeting of the Society for the Amendment of the Law, on Wednesday, the report and resolutions of a committee on juvenile delinquency and reformatory institutions was submitted by Mr. Power. They were supported by Mr. F. Hill and Mr. M. D. Hill. Mr. Ayrton, observing that whatever the reformatory is, it is still a prison, expressed doubt whether prisons should be in the hands of voluntary committees, and an opinion that there is no reason why these children should not be subject to the same law as adults. Lord Brougham pointed out an oversight in one of the resolutions, by which a justice or justices might, with the consent of a child under fourteen, either sentence him to death for a capital crime, or send him to a reformatory institution, and by which a magistrate might inflict one day's imprisonment for manslaughter! It was resolved, that juvenile delinquents under sixteen (instead of fourteen, as originally proposed) should, by the tribunals before which they are found guilty, be sent to reformatories, or subjected to the existing punishment, as in each case might be best. The report was referred back to the committee for revision.

It appears from a statement made by Sir William Molesworth, that London has lost its statue of George the Second. The figure—a compound of clay and lead, like its original—stood in Leicester-square—one of the eye-sores of the metropolis—and appears to have been carted away with other rubbish by Mr. Wyld when this gentleman was laying the foundations of the Great Globe. Mr. Wyld has unintentionally, and, as we think, without due warrant, done a good thing,—and, when he next thinks of carting away rubbish, we would strongly urge him to turn his adventurous attention towards the abomination at Hyde Park Corner. The privilege, however, so judiciously exercised in Leicester-square, is one obviously open to abuse. If Mr. Wyld may cart away our Georges, somebody else may hereafter claim the right to cart away our Victorias. No one appears to have control in the matter. Our statues have no owners—they are literally outcasts in the public streets; and any man may do unto them as seems good in his own eyes. Therefore, it is desirable that Sir William Molesworth should bring in his bill to place the metropolitan statues under care of a department of Public Works.—*Athenæum*.

A Meeting of the National Temperance Society, was held in the large hall of the Whittington Club, on Wednesday last, with the view of directing

attention to the influence of strong drinks in preventing social and religious progress. In the absence of J. S. Buckingham, Esq., from recent illness, John Taylor, Esq., presided. W. K. Baker, Esq., drew attention to the action of alcohol upon the brain, and, through it, upon the mind, in preventing those clear and impressive conceptions of Christian truth without which religious culture was impossible; and showed, by the statement of two striking examples, that the most distinguished talents and position are no security against the insidious influence of strong drinks. S. C. Hall, Esq., editor of the "Art Journal," enlarged on the moral and religious advantages of abstinence to all classes. He could speak of these from experience, and his observations among literary men had furnished proof, that not only the humbler but the superior classes suffered fearfully from the curse of intoxicating potations. As but one out of many cases, that of Thomas Campbell, author of the "Pleasures of Hope," was tenderly alluded to. The Rev. Dawson Burns, (Secretary) referred to the evidence before the Parliamentary Committee on Public Houses, as containing the acknowledgement of all parties that the social and religious progress of the people kept pace with the diminished consumption of inebriating liquors. Citations were also made from a Bombay periodical, edited by the American missionaries, to prove that there was no hope for the success of missionary efforts but in the abstinence of the Hindoo—both heathen and native Christian—from intoxicating drinks.

The *Cork Reporter* has the following particulars of a most distressing shipwreck.

Yesterday, the ship *Cambria*, C. Perry, master, bound from New Orleans to Cork, for orders, arrived in Queens-town, and reported that on the 28th March, at 2 p.m., sea time, in lat. 43.25 N., long. 44.5 W., she fell in with the wreck of the British barque *Westminster*, of Sunderland, Capt. Smith, from Honduras, bound to Cork, for orders, with her bowsprit, fore and mainmasts, standing main rail on both sides, and poop, gone to the deep. Three men were lashed to the mast-head, who kept swinging their sou'-westers as a signal, the sea making over the wreck all the time, and the wind blowing a gale from the south. We extract the following from Captain Perry's report:—"I hove to immediately, and took in all sail, lowered one life boat, with the mate and four men, and pulled towards the wreck, but when we got about half way to her, we were obliged to return to the ship on account of the heavy sea. At 4 p.m., I sent the boat again with the second mate and five seamen, who succeeded in reaching the wreck, but could not lay their boat alongside on account of the heavy sea. They, however, got as near as possible, and hove a small line to the men on the wreck, by which means they succeeded in getting them safely into the boat, but in a state of extreme exhaustion, having been drifting about at the mercy of the waves for twenty-two days, during which their only food was the flesh of their dead messmates. The sailmaker, William Carr, died before reaching the *Cambria*, and the other two, Alexander Ross, of Glasgow, and John Ramsey, of Dundee, were also nearly in the last stage of exhaustion, but they survived and were brought into Queens-town. Ross and Ramsey state that the next day after they were wrecked the captain and eight men took the small boat, the long boat having been previously stove in, and leaving the chief officer and eight men to their fate on the wreck, proceeded towards a schooner which they saw about four miles off, steering to the eastward. The men on the wreck, however, did not see the schooner lower her sails, and, as far as they could discover, she did not observe either the wreck or the boat. That same night a gale of wind came on, accompanied by a heavy sea, which lasted all next day."

"The Romance of a Coal-field" is reported by the *Mining Journal* as having happened a few years ago in Parr, about thirteen miles from Liverpool, where there are several extensive collieries. An elderly widow lady sold to a gentleman some property in Parr, consisting of a house and about thirty acres of land, for £3,000. The old lady thought there must be coals under the land, as there is so much in the neighbourhood; but it was the decided opinion of coal proprietors, and others conversant with coal-mines, that there were no coals on the property. The seller of the property, however, insisted that the coals should be reserved, unless the purchaser would give her £100 for them. This he refused doing, and the coals were, accordingly, excepted from his purchase, and reserved to her. The old lady died soon after, bequeathing the coal mines among the children of a deceased sister, seven in number, who were all labourers, and the residue of her property, worth about £3,000, to the children of another sister. The bequest of the coal-mines was considered a nominal thing, and the dissensions in the two families were great on account of it. The coal legatees brooded for a length of time over their disappointment in not sharing their aunt's property with their cousins, but at length they contrived to induce some persons, who were supposed to have more money than wit, to undertake the expense of boring on the land, to ascertain whether there were coals or not. The boring continued for a considerable time, to the great amusement of persons connected with collieries; but at last, to their great astonishment, the chagrin of the purchaser, and the unbounded delight of the legatees, two delfs of the best coal in Lancashire were discovered, extending nearly the whole breadth of the land, and which could be easily worked. These coals were immediately purchased by the proprietor of a neighbouring colliery for £20,000. On subsequent borings three lower delfs were found, which the same parties purchased for £15,000.

The annual general meeting of the subscribers and friends of the National Institution for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck was held at their offices, John-street, Adelphi, Captain Shepherd, H.C.S., Deputy-master of the Trinity-house, in the chair. The Chairman having dwelt at some length upon the importance of the institution, Mr. Lewis, the Secretary, read the annual report, which stated that lifeboats on Mr. Peake's design had been placed during the past year by the institution at Lyme Regis, Barmouth, Sennen Cove, Dungeness, Ardrossan, Dundrum Bay, and

Skorries. Lifeboats, on the same plan, had also been built under the directions of the committee for the Prussian Government, and for the Aberdeen Harbour Commissioners, and several of them had already proved useful in saving the crews of wrecked vessels. Mr. A. E. Fuller, M.P., had liberally presented to the institution the Eastbourne lifeboat. The lifeboats of the society during the year had saved the crews and passengers of twelve ships. The destruction of human life from shipwrecks, on the coasts of the United Kingdom, had been very large in the past year, 800 shipwrecks, with the loss of 870 lives, having occurred in that period, which, however, was considerably less than those of 1852. In the awful gale of last January, 257 wrecks occurred, accompanied by the sacrifice of 486 lives. In addition to one gold medal, fourteen silver medals, and ten other honorary rewards, nearly £200 had been voted by the institution during the past year for saving 678 lives, and since the first establishment of the society, nearly 9,000 lives had been saved by the use of its lifeboats and other means; and for rescuing whom, it had granted seventy-nine gold medals and 539 silver medals, besides pecuniary rewards amounting to nearly £9,000. The receipts of the year had been £1,885, whilst its expenditure on legitimate objects was £2,482, besides liabilities for lifeboats amounting to £570. The committee earnestly appealed to the public for additional support to enable them to carry on successfully the operations of the institution. The report was adopted unanimously, and various resolutions pledging the meeting to support the institution having been also carried, the meeting separated.

Literature.

A Compendium of Ecclesiastical History. By Dr. GIESELER. Translated by Rev. J. W. HULL, M.A. Vol. 4. (Foreign Theological Library.) *Biblical Commentary on the Epistle of the Hebrews*; in continuation of Olshausen. By Dr. J. H. A. EBRARD, Professor of Theology at Erlangen. Translated by Rev. J. FULTON. (Foreign Theological Library.) Edinburgh: T. and T. Clark.

A NEW series of the Messrs. Clarks' Foreign Theological Library having now commenced, with the issue of the first volume of a revised and extended edition of Hengstenberg's most celebrated work—*The Christology of the Old Testament*,—it is high time that we discharge our duty to the volumes before us, which complete the former series; although we had hoped to notice more fully than we find space at command for, the work of Ebrard described above. Dr. Gieseler's valuable work,—the research and learning of which are perhaps unapproached in the literature of Ecclesiastical history, and have furnished so large a part of the *originality*, and still more of the *imposing references* to first-hand authorities, in later works both English and Foreign,—requires not from us either description or discussion, but simply the announcement that the translation has now reached the *fourth* volume, and that one more, we believe, will complete the work. Mr. Hull has worthily continued the labour of translation, which Dr. Davidson so ably commenced.

Ebrard's work on the Hebrews is a book in the steps of Olshausen, as far as being deeply spiritual, and aiming at the development of the logic and moral significance of the epistle, rather than at any great amount of verbal criticism or philological remark; but it is unlike Olshausen in many important respects, especially in the quality of good, sound sense, and in the solidity and completeness of its structure. Let not the reader suppose we mean to deny the intellectual and scholarly ability of the learned author;—perhaps he has more than even Olshausen: but we mean to say, that he has less of the steadiness and solidity which exposition demands, and in which Olshausen was none too rich, although generally his subtlety was companioned by common sense. Ebrard is a German among Germans; from whose work might be collected remarkable instances of good learning and learned trifling, of vigorous thinking and inane speculation, of admirable exegesis and of absurd extravagance. This is his merit, however, that he may always be understood, even when he cannot be approved: and more than that,—his mind has a singular freshness and buoyancy, and his thought is always interesting in itself and suggestive of other thoughts. This commentary is, in the main, a very valuable one. We find it truer to our own reading of the Hebrews than either Tholuck or Stuart:—and there is no work on the epistle of much depth besides; unless we except Mr. Maurice's lectures, which contain only an outline of interpretation, and that not wholly satisfying, and fragmentary hints on particular passages. Ebrard sees the scope of the epistle clearly, appreciates the bearing of its parts, enters into the very heart of its feeling, and traces with general success the progress of the thought. But in dissecting individual sentences, in the exposition of allusions, in the unfolding of hints, and in the combination of the peculiarities of the author's view of the relation of Christianity to Judaism, he is often fanciful in the extreme, and amuses more than he instructs us. We intended to say something of his Introduction, or rather Supplement, to the

epistle: [but we must content ourselves with remarking, that he does not ascribe it to Paul, but to some one within the Pauline circle,—perhaps owing its substance to Timothy, and its form to Luke.

The Poetical Works of Goldsmith, Collins, and T. Warton. With Biographical and Critical Notices, &c. By Rev. G. GILFILLAN. Edinburgh: J. Nichol.

THIS is the last volume of the first year's issue of the "Library Edition of the British Poets." The second year's issue is already commenced; but we prefer to speak of this volume alone. And we may permit ourselves to look back on its predecessors for the year, that, reviewing all that has been done by editor and publisher, and comparing their achievements with their promises, a reconsidered judgment, appropriate to the close of the first issue, may be deliberately pronounced. That judgment is this—that the publisher has more than kept faith with the public, and has really exceeded his promises, in the careful painstaking by which accuracy of text has been sought, and in the praiseworthy readiness with which he has availed himself of every new opportunity and means of bringing his edition as near as possible to typographical and literary perfection. Mr. Gilfillan, too, has surpassed the expectations, and disappointed some of the fears we had of him;—he has never written with more intelligence, carefulness, and restraint (a great quality) than in some of these biographies and criticisms—never with truer feeling and less self-obtrusiveness. A friendly protest might still be raised on some questions of taste, and a lance be good-humouredly pointed against him on some matters of criticism: but these Introductions are, certainly, not open to the greater exceptions taken by cultivated and even sympathetic readers, to the meretricious brilliancy and metaphorical confusions of other writings of Mr. Gilfillan's, in which, notwithstanding, there was a genuine substance of thought and imagination.

The volume before us contains three poets, as unlike each other as possible, and with lives quite correspondingly various. Of dear, wise, foolish, "Goldy," we have nothing to say; except that Mr. Gilfillan has understood him, and speaks of him and of his poetry with truth and delicate appreciation. He had good guides in Forster, Washington Irving, Bolton Corney, and others; so that little remained to be done by another hand. Of Collins, whose very name is full of pathos to us, and whose verse has strange power to arrest our youth and to retain its hold upon our age, there is here a discerning and heart-warm sketch, which has given us sincere delight. But of Warton—the merest maker of verses, and the very ideal of a thick-headed, dead-hearted, Fellow of a College, in a sleepy, useless University—of him, who was nothing to admire, and wrote nothing worthy to be preserved, it seems to us that Mr. Gilfillan has an altogether mistaken notion and false estimate: and we agree with scarcely a sentence he has written about him. And we suspect most people will agree with us, and will not be seduced by Mr. Gilfillan's praises into the perusal of any four pages of this stupid old bore.

In looking over this volume, and especially, in comparing its reprint of Goldsmith with other editions, we are more than ever sensible that something more careful and discriminating requires to be done, in the way of Notes, to this Library Edition of the Poets. We would not, by any means, have the page overlaid with annotations, nor would we have supplements of explanations and comments. We desire only that facts and allusions, not belonging to the common and familiar knowledge of general readers, should be made clear in brief notes; and that those notes should not be, as we confess some of those in this volume are, explanations that need to be explained, or vague and useless passing remarks, that leave the matter where it was; but the most highly-concentrated essence of such facts, respecting persons or events, as are imbedded in the poet's verse. We solicit the ready ear of the publisher on this matter, and invite his quick eye to a comparative study of the annotations on poets;—he will soon see that most of what has been done by others is to be avoided, but that there is a very desirable improvement possible in the *value*, rather than in the extent, of what is done in his own edition.

Poetical Works of John Dryden. Vol. II. Edited by ROBERT BELL. London: J. W. Parker and Son.

THIS second specimen of Mr. Parker's "Annotated Edition of the Poets" calls for very little remark. It justifies both the commendations we formerly pronounced, and the minor objections we took to the editor's manner of discharging his duties. The introductions to the several poems are almost uniformly excellent and valuable: let us give an instance, in a few lines, from the introduction to *The Hind and the Panther*, so celebrated as a piece of "poetical ratiocination":—

"Little more than four years elapsed between the publication of the *Religio Laici* and the *Hind and the Panther*,

In this interval, Dryden had embraced the Roman Catholic religion. An indication of the change that was taking place in his opinions may be detected in the last stanza of the *Theododia Augustalis*; and, in the *Hind and the Panther*, he throws off all disguise and hesitation, and, with the usual zeal of the proselyte, assails the Church he had renounced.—The form selected is ill suited to his purpose. Employing the machinery of a fable, without being able to maintain its attractions, or work out its moral, he collects an assembly of beasts, as representatives of the different denominations, and, through this clumsy contrivance, raises the whole controversy between the two Churches and the branch sects of Protestantism. Thus, the Roman Catholic Church is represented by the 'milk-white hind,' and the Church of England by the 'spotted panther' (the contrast conveying a hint of infallibility on the one side and error on the other); while the 'bloody bear' represents the Independents; the 'quaking hare,' the Quakers; the 'buffoon ape,' the Free-thinker; the 'bristled baptist boar,' the Anabaptists, 'false reynard,' the Unitarians, and the 'wolf,' the Presbyterians; King James II. figuring in the midst as the 'British Lion!' Pursuing this zoological allegory into the regions of mythology, he completes the scheme by presenting the founder of Christianity under the character of Pan! The incongruity of the design was effectively ridiculed by a host of critics. The incongruity clearly consists, not in assembling these animals in an allegory for moral or satirical purposes but in assigning functions to them which at once destroy the illusion of the allegory. Whatever is said or done by birds and beasts should be conformable with their natures; and the art of such compositions is to convey a covert meaning through a representation that shall be in all respects consistent in itself."

Now, this fragment is a good specimen of the critical parts of Mr. Bell's introductions; and this is legitimate, interesting, and useful to the general reader. But when he adds a note, devoted to the criticism and overthrow of Sir Walter Scott's defence of the incongruities of the poem in question, he passes beyond the functions of an editor of the poet—becomes a mere critic of critics, and uses a license which, were it freely permitted, might make the "annotations" of the book dreary, cumbersome, and useless, and the edition itself a pest and a nuisance to a sensitive and tolerably well-informed reader. The same objection applies to all sorts of commentary, in which no historical or purely critical element prevails. It especially applies to such a note as we find on page 99; where we have the editor's gratuitous opinion on the recent religious persecutions by the Duke of Tuscany! Where will it end, if "annotation" is to comprise applications of the poetry to events contemporary with an editor's labours?

Others of the annotations are extremely useful, and, we are bound to say, the majority are free from the exceptionable points we have dwelt on. It was a good thought of Mr. Bell's, to collect passages from the *Religio Laici*, and place in the notes to the *Hind and Panther*; as showing how Dryden sustained, at different times, different views of the same facts and doctrines, and thus making "the two voices, the backward and the forward," to speak together.

We must again record our satisfaction, on the whole, with this edition; for, notwithstanding the abatements we have made—and the defect of not numbering the lines of long poems, of which we spoke before—it is undoubtedly the best edition for general use that we have yet had of the poet Dryden. The volume of these "Annotated Poets," containing Surrey and Sackville, which might have furnished some pleasant matter for quotation and remark, has not reached us.

Lectures in aid of Self-Improvement, addressed to Young Men and others. By T. T. LYNCH. London: Longman and Co.

THE words "self-improvement" and "self-culture" have become so hacknied in the hands of those who deliver "lectures to young men," that we are almost afraid some persons—at least, among those who do not know Mr. Lynch—will not find this title as attractive and quickening to their curiosity and interest as the little book it ushers into the world ought to be. Let us, therefore, bring in the particulars of the contents at once. The subjects are, Self-improvement, and the Motives to it—Religion as a Study—On Books, and on reading them—Conversation and Discussion—Manners and Social Respectability—Circumstance and Character. On these Mr. Lynch discourses in a manner worthy of the maturity of our admirable friend Theophilus Trinal—with true wisdom and healthy piety—with fine imagination, exquisite illustration, and choicest words. There is more coherence and cumulativeness in these lectures than belong to those on the "Forms of Literature"; they are at once, too, completer in thought and more perspicuous in expression.

The lecture on "Religion as a Study" has remarkable freshness and depth. In the present day, there are so many of "those (to use Mr. Lynch's words) who are undertaking the study of religion as outside the church, or who are, say, seeking a religion,"—and, again, so many of "those who are in the church, having found what they sought, but not found it in perfection,"—who alike require the helping hand and honest voice of a manly Christianity, that this topic has the highest interest and moment, and deserved to be treated with the greatest thoughtfulness and in a most responsible spirit. Mr. Lynch has felt it to be so: the utmost condensation of thought, the fullest flow of holy feeling, the heartiest confidence of

truth and hope, are characteristics of his treatment of it; and we believe this lecture will prove directive and quickening to every sincere soul to whom its words come. We give two brief extracts:—

"The Bible makes this great impression upon us—that God has, from the first, been working redemptively. Till we view the earth in the light of a redemptive principle, we view it, as to its difficulties and sorrows, in no light at all. All is darkness to us: clouds and dismay. But the Bible shows us the world as under discipline for deliverance from the bondage of trouble and sin. And Christ achieves the greatest, the central victory of redeeming mercy and wisdom. And, whilst you cannot accept all that men offer you as doctrine about Christ, or know all that you desire to know about those doctrines that you do accept, you may be sure that He entered the sea of sorrows and prevailed to pass through, for mighty ends of deliverance. And as, independently of the puzzling varieties of questions about Truth, the Bible is a power over a man for inward and daily righteousness: so, independently of doctrinal completeness about Christ, His courage and constancy of love even until death, and His resurrection from the grave—are not these God's comfort and covenant to the believing heart? Christ is the Method and the Sign of God—His Sign of hope, His Method of leading on to hope's fruition. God's sign—death could not hold Him, shall it hold whom He will loose? Sin could not corrupt Him—shall it destroy whom He will deliver? The Crucified is crowned—here is the Sign. The Crowned was first crucified—here is the Method. No man can prevail in the Divine way who will not undergo humiliations. He must stoop to conquer, he must suffer or die to prevail. And our strength is this weakness, and our assurance of hope is through 'Him who loved us and gave himself for us.' Christianity is as plainly designed for a troublesome world, as a ship, with its pointed front, bending sides, and towering sails, is designed for the ocean. You cannot mistake the ship: it is not for the firm land, but for the boisterous water. And no Bible student can mistake Christianity: it is not for a smooth, level course, it is for the sea. It is the ark-ship, the ship of safety, the ship of enterprise."

"Religion is a study as well as a life, but it is a life as well as a study. We must find time to live religiously if we would live well, and he who can find time to live can spare some to study. Religion, as Thought, is the uniting all thoughts to highest ones, as Love, the affection for all things loved, as preferring best ones; as Work, the determining of zeal and conduct in all inferior aims, by chief ones. Religion is the superior in life; and to be over us as highest must be within us as deepest. He who can find time for conscientious in-looking at himself, and would have a hope that cannot feed its flame on the common air of this world, and an aim the height and greatness of which shall make it perpetually in sights above, should be a student of religion. He must be, he will be."

Next to this lecture, we like best those on "Conversation and Discussion," and "Circumstance and Character,"—which more suggestively and improvingly treat these matters than any pages we ever read. "On Books and the reading of them" Mr. Lynch has many wise, delighting, and helpfully directive things to say. Nor is either lecture without its own peculiar merits and special claims on the "young men and others," to whom the book is addressed. We would point out, also, the "Prefatory Letter," as a manly piece of plain-speaking, which commends not only the lecturer and author, but the preacher to our truest reverence and heartiest regard.

Public Works in India; their Importance, with Suggestions for their Extension and Improvement. By Lieut.-Colonel A. COTTON: Chief Engineer, Madras. London: W. H. Allen and Co., Leadenhall-street.

WE frankly acknowledge much incompetency to deal with this small but valuable book. Into the statistics which bristle on every page we cannot enter, neither can we, from local ignorance, speak *ex cathedra* of their correctness; but the writer of this book is a man of real hard work, whose life has been spent in actual toil, and whose claims to be heard are modestly stated thus:—"I cannot but hope that these pages, which, though roughly and hastily written, are the fruit of thirty years' experience and active practical acquaintance with the subject of public works in India, and of constant contact with the natives in their villages, may, with God's blessing, be of use in stirring up England to consider this point."—(p. 47.)

After dwelling on the advantages of better communication between the remote provinces of our Anglo-Indian territory, Lieut. Cotton adds, in words with which we, and all believing readers of the *Nonconformist* will fully sympathise, and which we thank the author for stating so manfully:—"A new race of beings, a new system, a new set of ideas for India are required. Publicity, light, and air, the immediate exposure of every public document connected with the ordinary business of Government, for discussion by young as well as by old; these things are essential to such a change as India requires. And who cannot but hope that, in the providence of God, we are on the eve of a new start for India; that the present discussions will break up for ever the old decrepit system, and give rise to a fresh, healthy, vigorous one, worthy of our religion and of our nation."—(p. 59)."

In these hopes we cordially join; and to all interested in the future welfare of India we recommend this book for its fulness of information, modesty yet firmness of style, and evident marks of a thoroughly practical acquaintance with the various subjects it discusses.

Facts without Fiction. By the Author of "Thoughts upon Thought." London: W. and F. G. CASH.

This little volume merits no particular notice at our hands. It is a religious biography, written, according to the author, in the *vis viva* style. Captain Grant, the principal figure of the group, resided some years in the West Indies, where he kept a copious journal; from this journal, stretching from 1793 to 1846, assisted by other memoranda, this book is made up. As a veritable record, either of the slave trade or of slavery, it is of very little use; and the negro palaver introduced is evidently written by one who knows nothing of that hideous patois which the West Indian negroes talk. In addition to this, we should like to know in what part of the West Indies a planter's residence is called a "bungalow," as it is always called in "Facts without Fiction." However, the book is *piously* written, and some parts *well* written; but having no taste for religious biographies, which are too commonly "cut out with a model pair of chapel scissors," we can only advise our readers who may be at a loss to come at our judgment, to read the book for themselves.

Literary Miscellany.

SWEDISH TOASTS.—The Englishman about to pronounce, or rather splutter, a panegyric, rises, hooks his left thumb in the arm-hole of his waistcoat, and, with an upraised right hand, opens fire upon the enemy. As he proceeds to tack wings to the back of his inestimable friend Tomkins, he warms sensibly; he raps the table, he spreads out his arms, his voice runs discordantly up and down the scale, and he concludes with a storm. During this exhibition, the bashful Tomkins busies himself with his watch-key. The Swedish orator does not rise from his seat. He speaks in so low a tone of voice, that at first you pay no attention, thinking he is addressing his neighbour only. The voice throughout preserves an even intonation; there is no perceptible rise or fall of passion in it, and the words are given in spasmodic threes and fours, thus:—"I am anxious—that we should—do all honour—to the toast—which has been—entrusted to my care. Herr G—— has been—for many years—engaged—always—in the undertaking—which has now—been brought—to—a very successful issue." These words are pronounced with sharp, short pauses, the voice falling to a whisper at the end of each sentence. The guests are silent throughout. No table-rapping here, no "hear, hears," no tremendous cheering: all is quiet and ceremonious. But Herr G—— does not act like Tomkins. This gentleman, the instant his name is mentioned by his panegyrist, rises, and continues standing till the company have drunk the toast proposed in his honour—*Brags Beaker with the Swedes.*

LIFE IN THE TEMPLE.—I was startled, as I moved on, after this reverie, with the echo of my own footsteps, and the patter of an old woman's clogs, as she, sole intruder during that nocturnal visit, died away with appalling distinctness. By the light of scattered lamps it was difficult to read the signs; but, at length, I found "Crown Office Row," where Lamb was born and passed the first years of childhood. He calls it "cheerful;" and one can imagine, that on a fine summer noon, as he roamed about the court and watched the watery jet, or grave pedestrians he so vividly remembered, that this venerable and secluded region wore to his imaginative eye a charmed aspect; it was associated, too, with the endearments of home, and the dreams of a solitary boyhood. I seemed to catch one secret of his genius as I surveyed the monastic character of the place where his mind first expanded to life and its mysteries: separated thus from the bustling street, environed by objects that were eloquent of the past, breathing the air hallowed by knightly worship and juridical lore—Jerusalem and St. John the watchwords of infancy—how natural that he should grow up unswayed by the rapid current of life, and unimpressed by the material phases of an existence that seemed to belong to another realm. Think of the effect of daily emerging from the Temple into the Strand, and retiring thither as to a nest and domicile. It was a kind of friar-life, consecrated by seclusion, and what he calls "the most elegant spot in the metropolis," to a meditative and individual experience. This antique quietude moulded his nature to an observant and reflective habit; and, therefore, when he was forced into the world, it was only "to be dragged along in the procession." The transition from Fleet-street to the Temple was, to my consciousness, like that from ordinary life to his pages; a serene oddity, a sympathetic charm, a dallying with the things of the hour, as if they were given us only as incentives to fancy, or a nucleus for sentiment, instantly takes the place of the executive and incident to common life. The fevered pulse grows cool; the roving eye settles happily; the unquiet heart is refreshed by the waters that "go softly." As these quiet precincts stand beside the crowded highway—a haven for the musing stranger, attuning his spirit to life's latent significance, Lamb's own words, uttered with such instinctive pathos, or graceful humour, invade the coarse and hollow speech that, in the world's daily jargon, wearies and confounds. Here, then, I thought his beautiful spirit first awoke, endowed so early, to taste the sweets of ideal love, to revel in the intense humanity of the old dramatists, to stammer out memorable witticisms, to recognise and celebrate the old humanities, and in the heart of burley, money-getting, matter-of-fact England, weave mellow hues of the past, suggest heroic comfort, and awaken enduring affection for his own gracious memory and gentle name.—*Tuckerman's Month in England.*

Gleanings.

When will the Emperor Nicholas next sleep in England? When he takes a *nap-here* (Napier)!

During the last session of Parliament 106 railway acts were passed, which occasioned an increase of mileage of 603 miles five chains, and an increase of capital of \$12,793,896.

A Yankee actor, determined not to quit the stage even when he has "shuffled off this mortal coil," has bequeathed his skull to the Mobile theatre, for the use of Hamlet when he moralizes on the pranks of Yorick.

The celebrated John Frail, of Shrewsbury, has been presented with a service of silver plate and a china tea and coffee service, value 200 guineas, not for his and the Derby electioneering services to "W.B.," but in appreciation of his conduct as clerk of the Shrewsbury races.

At Carlow, the other day, a soldier who had been drinking, thrust his arm through the bars of a lion's cage. The beast fastened its claws in his flesh, and the blood flowed copiously; but the soldier, with great presence of mind, held his arm firm until the keeper threw a bullock's head into the den, when the lion released its hold.

The new comet was first seen in Paris, not by one of the official astronomers, but by a poor man who picks up a precarious livelihood by stationing himself in the Place du Carrousel with a telescope for the accommodation of workmen, soldiers, grisettes, and others of the lower orders astronomically inclined.

At the end of the announcement of a lecture to be delivered in Rome, New York, by Henry Ward Beecher, the Committee of Managers insert the following reasonable request:—"P.S. Will persons in the habit of using tobacco abstain from its use while there? as the ladies who furnished the church have justly an unwillingness to its being used for lectures, through fear of its being desecrated and soiled by the juice of the weed."

Her Majesty's ships now engaged in the Arctic regions in search for Sir John Franklin are to leave in the summer of 1855, and not to wait the winter of that year. Should England be engaged in hostilities with any other power, they are to take no part in it, it being the established practice of all civilised nations to consider vessels engaged in scientific discoveries as exempt from the operations of war.

Formerly there were two inscriptions in the ruins of the Abbey Church of Holme Cultram, referring to the last abbot, Robert Chamber. The first, "Orate pro anima Roberti Chamber," disappeared some time ago; but the second, cut in the stone over a niche formerly containing a statue of the Virgin, "Lady, deyr, save Robert Chamber," has been quite recently effaced by the chisel of some fanatical person who respects intolerance more than antiquity.

A writer in the *Household Words* remarks that the grand difficulty of life, in deaf mutes, is a moral one. Most other sufferers are depressed and humbled; but these are mightily exalted. From their asylum they look down on the outer world with great compassion for those who can hear and speak. The parents of an existing member of Parliament (a fair speaker) were both deaf and dumb; and they made a great lamentation over each child as it was found to be able to hear. They were themselves so very happy, they said, and their poor children would, after all, be only like every body else!

In council at Glasgow a few days since, the Surveyor of the Post-office asked permission to erect receiving-boxes for letters against the walls of houses and in lamp pillars. The proposal was agreed to, after a humorous discussion.—The Lord Provost remarked, that the same plan obtained in Paris, and that surely the inhabitants of Glasgow were as honest as the people of the French capital.—The Deacon Convener said, this plan was nothing new in post-office management. When travelling lately in the Highlands, he saw a post-office box affixed to a tree in a wood, and not a house within some miles of it. (Laughter.)

A few weeks ago the *Leeds Mercury* announced that the Wakefield Town Council had been petitioned by the members of the police force on the subject of being allowed to wear moustachios. The Watch Committee declined to interfere, which the men interpreting in a favourable light, were thereby induced to cultivate the hirsute appendages. The "terrible appearance," however, of several of them, after a few weeks' abstinence from the razor, was so alarming, not only to their own sense of propriety, but to the public generally, that they were induced to condescend to appear once more as ordinary mortals. "It is only some physiognomies," observes our contemporary, "that are graced by a prolific moustache and beard."

The other Sunday morning, a curious scene took place at Horfield church. The clergyman, it seems, in concluding his sermon, made an appeal to his congregation on behalf of the expenses of the church, and expressed a fear that there were some present who would much rather spend their money in the alehouse than contribute towards the support of their parish church. Whereupon one of the congregation, a labouring man, living in the village, rose and inquired if the clergyman alluded to him? because, if he did, he thought he had a right to do what he liked with his own, more especially as he thought the Bristol Infirmary, or the Hospital, a much better object of charity. Hodge was evidently conscience-stricken about the money spent in the alehouse, and the affair caused quite a sensation.

A conductor on the railroad from Cincinnati to Hamilton, U.S., saw a little girl in the cars, who he supposed came under the rate of half price for children, and returned her half the amount tendered, with a remark to that effect. "Half fare, ha, ha. Why, do you take me for a girl?" "Certainly, Miss, unless your looks belie you very much." "Well, then, if I

do, I am married; and that aint all—I have got a baby six months old." "Excuse me, Madam; but it strikes me that, whatever I may be to-day, you are full up with the time table, if not just a little a-head. I'll take full fare, and no charge for the baby."

The following is said to have been the form of marrying before a magistrate, as enjoined by the Parliament during the Commonwealth of England, to take place from September 29, 1653.—"MAN: 'I, A. B., do here, in the presence of God, the Searcher of all hearts, take thee, C. D., for my wedded wife; and do also, in the presence of God and before these witnesses, promise to be unto thee a loving and faithful husband.'—WOMAN: 'I, C. D., do here, in the presence of God, the Searcher of all hearts, take thee, A. B., for my wedded husband; and do also, in the presence of God and before these witnesses, promise to be unto thee a loving, faithful, and obedient wife.'"

In his "Pine Forests and Haematack Clearings," Colonel Sleigh takes up the cudgels against the temperance movement, and especially the Maine Liquor Law in America. "We can confidently assert," he says, "we never encountered a 'Son of Temperance' who was not one of the greatest drunkards in the community. Secret, or rather private tippling, is carried on to an awful extent: we have frequently seen a 'Son' depart to a Lodge-meeting, in a state of elevation which might elicit the applause, or excite the envy, of the habitual drunkard. In the country districts liquor is imbibed to a fearful extent. In the United States, where everyone lives at a *table-d'hôte*, it is a very rare occurrence to see any one taking wine or malt liquor. Indeed, if a stranger has a decanter ordered, he becomes at once an object of peculiar observation to every one at the table. The result would be an impression on a traveller's mind, that the American population, as seen at an hotel table, is the most temperate in the world. This favourable opinion only lasts until a visit has been made to the bar of the hotel after dinner. Then will the astonished tourist, in quest of the remarkable, be surprised to meet all the long-faced gentry, who so solemnly drank their ice-water a few moments before at the *table-d'hôte*, surrounding the bar-keeper, imbibing through the reed, sherry-cobblers, brandy-smash, mint-julep, cocktail, ginsling, and other intoxicating beverages, to a dangerous extent. The temperance principle is all outward show; it is even so with the 'Sons of Temperance.' On the other hand, we insert the following summary by the Hon. Edward Everett, of what ardent spirits have done in ten years for America:—"1. It has cost the nation a direct expense of 600,000,000 dollars.—2. It has cost the nation an indirect expense of 600,000,000 dollars.—3. It has destroyed 300,000 lives.—4. It has sent 100,000 children to the poorhouse.—5. It has consigned at least 150,000 persons to the jails and penitentiaries.—6. It has made at least 1,000 maniacs.—7. It has instigated to the commission of 1,500 murders.—8. It has caused 2,000 persons to commit suicide.—9. It has burnt or otherwise destroyed property to the amount of 10,000,000 dollars.—10. It has made 2,000 widows and 1,000,000 orphan children."

BIRTHS.

April 9th, at Lee, Blackheath, the wife of the Rev. JOHN CRAWFORD, of a daughter.

April 11th, at Harewood-terrace, Doncaster, the wife of the Rev. W. HARCUS, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

January 12th, by special licence, at St. James's Church, Sydney, by the Rev. C. F. D. PRIDDLE, Captain R. H. GOBLE, of the Royal Stuart, to ELIZA MARY, second daughter of the late Rev. E. CROOK, of Battersea, near London.

April 8th, at the Baptist Chapel, Falmouth, by the Rev. S. H. BOOTH, the Rev. SAMUEL NEWMAN, of Barnstaple; Devon, to ELIZABETH HORNLOWER, eldest daughter of the late Rev. EDWARD CLARKE, of Truro.

April 11th, at Vernon Chapel, Pentonville, by the Rev. Francis WILLS, Mr. CHARLES GREY, draper, of Hoxton (late of Ramsgate), to Miss CHAPMAN, of King-street, Ramsgate.

April 11th, at the Independent Chapel, Old Northamptonshire, by the Rev. John Spence, Mr. GEORGE FISHER, late of Kettering, to ELIZABETH, eldest daughter of Mr. WM. GOODE, of Scaldwell.

April 12th, at Bank-buildings Chapel, Weymouth, by the Rev. J. Price, Mr. J. E. ROBERTS, to Miss SARAH BELLON.

April 13th, by licence, at the Independent Chapel, Castle-street, Great Torrington, Devon, by the Rev. James Buckpitt, Mr. GEORGE ELLICOTT, of Great Blakewell Farm, Chittlehampton, to ELIZABETH DENNER, of Great Torrington.

April 13th, at Devonshire-square Chapel, by the Rev. Howard Hinton, OVE CASPERSEN, Esq., of Christiania, Norway, to SARAH HARRISON, sixth daughter of J. MEASER, Esq., timber merchant, Maldon, Essex.

DEATHS.

March 1st, at the Hills, Bombay Presidency, ALICE FLOWER, daughter of Rev. WM. CLARKSON, London Missionary Society, aged 34 years.

Also, March 9th, HENRY, infant son of the above, aged 10 months.

March 24th, the Rev. RICHARD AYLIFFE, of Stockbridge, Hants, aged 63. Mr. Ayliffe was the first pastor of the Independent Church in that town, and continued to officiate in his ministerial duties upwards of forty years. His funeral was attended by large numbers of the inhabitants of the town and surrounding villages, and his funeral sermon, preached by the Rev. Thomas Adkins, of Southampton, was listened to with deep and solemn attention by a crowded congregation.

April 4th, at Dublin, the Viscountess GOBT, in her 57th year.

April 7th, at Cavendish-square, CATHERINE LOUISA GEORGINA MANNERS, the wife of Lord JOHN MANNERS, M.P., in the 32nd year of her age.

April 9th, at 11 o'clock on Lord's-day evening, the Rev. EDWARD PALTRIDGE, for thirty years the minister of the Independent Church, South Petherton, Somersetshire, aged 60.

April 9th, MARY, the wife of Mr. PORTO BROWN, of Houghton, Huntingdon.

April 10th, Colonel W. E. POWELL, Lord Lieutenant of, and late M.P. for, the county of Cardigan.

April 11th, at St. James's-square, HARRIET, widow of the late GEORGE BYNG, Esq., M.P. for Middlesex.

April 11th, at Aylesbury, MARY, widow of the late W. RICKFORD, Esq., late M.P. for Aylesbury, aged 88.

April 11th, at his residence, Colchester, JOSEPH CARTER RISDELL, Esq., in his 68th year.

April 18th, at 7, Princess-terrace, Regent's Park, from an attack of apoplexy, GEORGE DRYE, Esq., of the Bank of England, surviving his wife only 16 days.

April 13th, at her residence, Clapham-common, at an advanced age, LYDIA, the widow of the late JOHN BROADLEY WILSON, Esq.

April 13th, at his residence, Hadsden-house, in the county of Somerset, the Right Hon. HENRY HORSBURY, aged 78.

April 14th, at Hackney, ANNE, wife of Mr. CHARLES GREEN.

April 15th, at Dorking, aged 80 years, LAURA, daughter of Mr. JOHN NICHOLSON, professor of Music.

April 16th, at Evesham, POWELL, son of Mr. WARMINGTON.

Advertisements.

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